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RENAISSANCE

6 / THE OURÖBÖRÖS

EUROPE COMICS

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EUROPE COMICS

WHAT A DRAMATIC TURN OF EVENTS, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

THE VEIL THAT WAS COVERING THE PLANET MARS, RENDERING IT INVISIBLE FOR MONTHS, HAS RISEN!

HUNDREDS OF CARRIERS AND THOUSANDS OF ORIGAMES, UNDOUBTEDLY BUILT FROM MINERALS ON THE RED PLANET, HAVE TAKEN OFF! AND LET ME TELL YOU: YOU CAN SEE THEM YOURSELVES WITH A SIMPLE TELESCOPE! AND, HERE AT RADIO PARIS, WE HAVE A NICE ONE!

MIGHT AS WELL SHARE THAT IT DOESN'T SEEM THAT RENAISSANCE HAS SENT THEIR FLEET OUT FOR A SIMPLE EXERCISE! SOMETHING HUGE HAS JUST APPEARED IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM!

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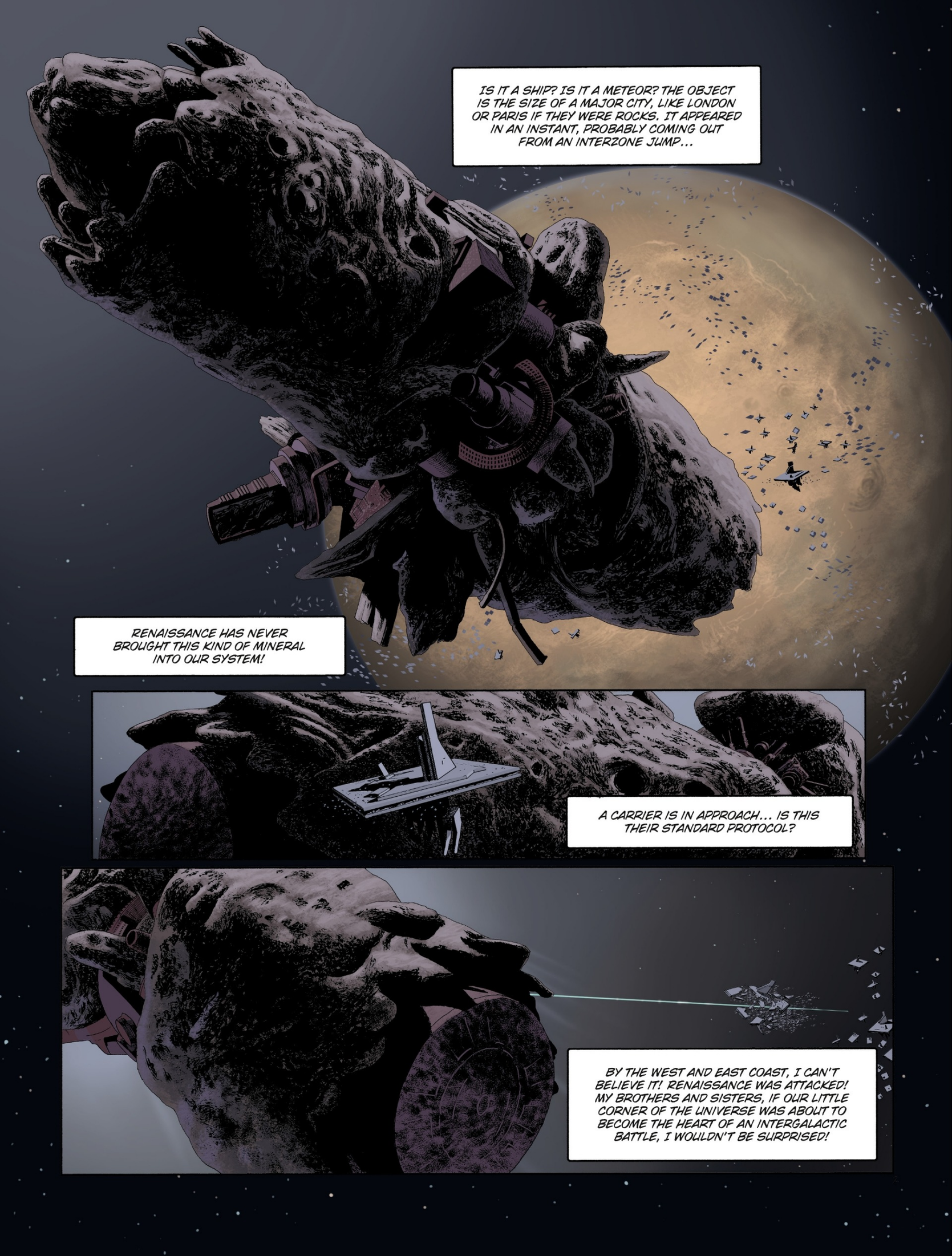
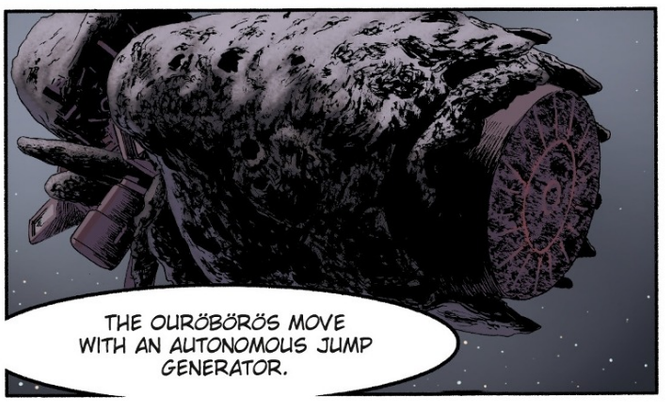
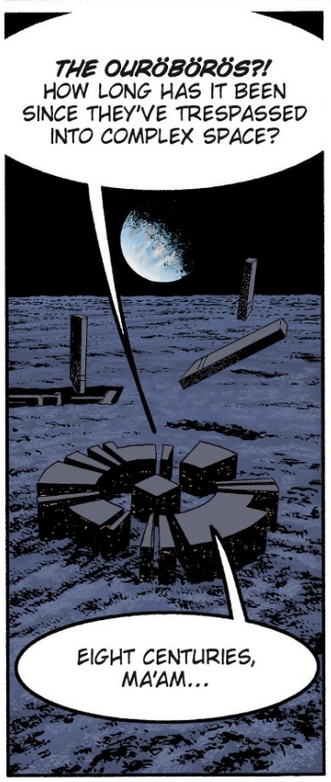
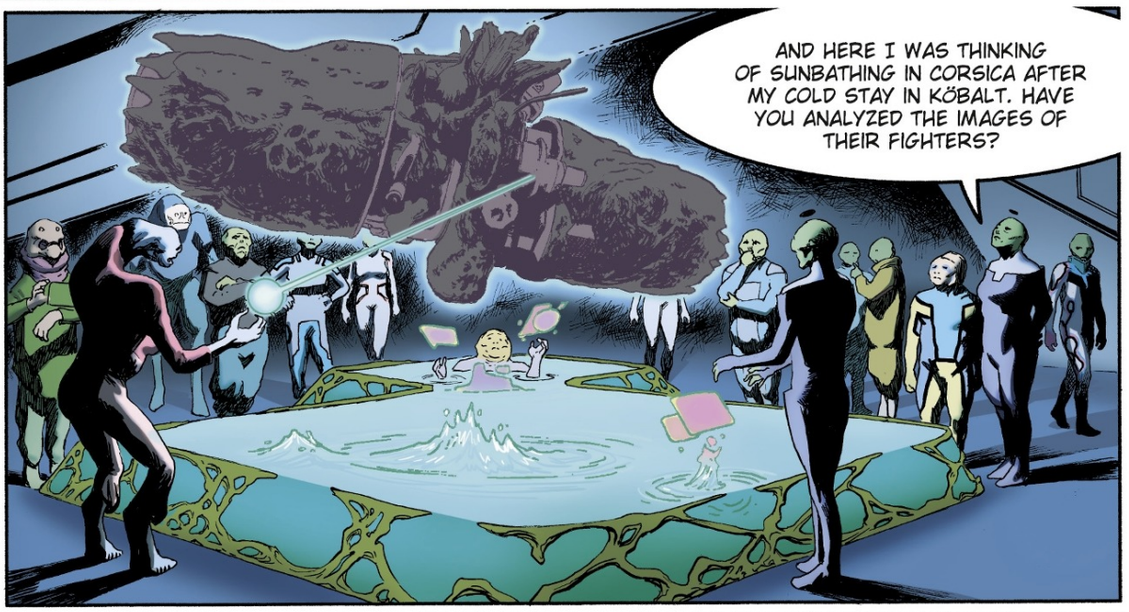

IS IT A SHIP? IS IT A METEOR? THE OBJECT IS THE SIZE OF A MAJOR CITY, LIKE LONDON OR PARIS IF THEY WERE ROCKS. IT APPEARED IN AN INSTANT, PROBABLY COMING OUT FROM AN INTERZONE JUMP...
RENAISSANCE HAS NEVER BROUGHT THIS KIND OF MINERAL INTO OUR SYSTEM!
A CARRIER IS IN APPROACH... IS THIS THEIR STANDARD PROTOCOL?
BY THE WEST AND EAST COAST, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! RENAISSANCE WAS ATTACKED! MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IF OUR LITTLE CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE WAS ABOUT TO BECOME THE HEART OF AN INTERGALACTIC BATTLE, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED!

INITIATE THE SHIELDS.
LUNA BASE, WE'RE TAKING POSITION OUTSIDE OF THE INTRUDERS' RANGE.

I CAN CONFIRM THAT IT'S AN OURÖBÖRÖS WORLD SHIP. ITS FIGHTER SQUADRONS ARE SUPERIOR TO OURS. THE COMPLEX MUST SEND US REINFORCEMENTS QUICKLY.

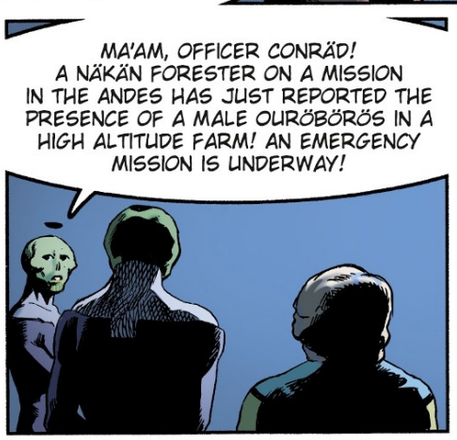

THE OURÖBÖRÖS MOVE WITH AN AUTONOMOUS JUMP GENERATOR.


THE OURÖBÖRÖS?! HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE THEY'VE TRESPASSED INTO COMPLEX SPACE?
EIGHT CENTURIES, MA'AM...


AND HERE I WAS THINKING OF SUNBATHING IN CORSICA AFTER MY COLD STAY IN KÖBALT. HAVE YOU ANALYZED THE IMAGES OF THEIR FIGHTERS?

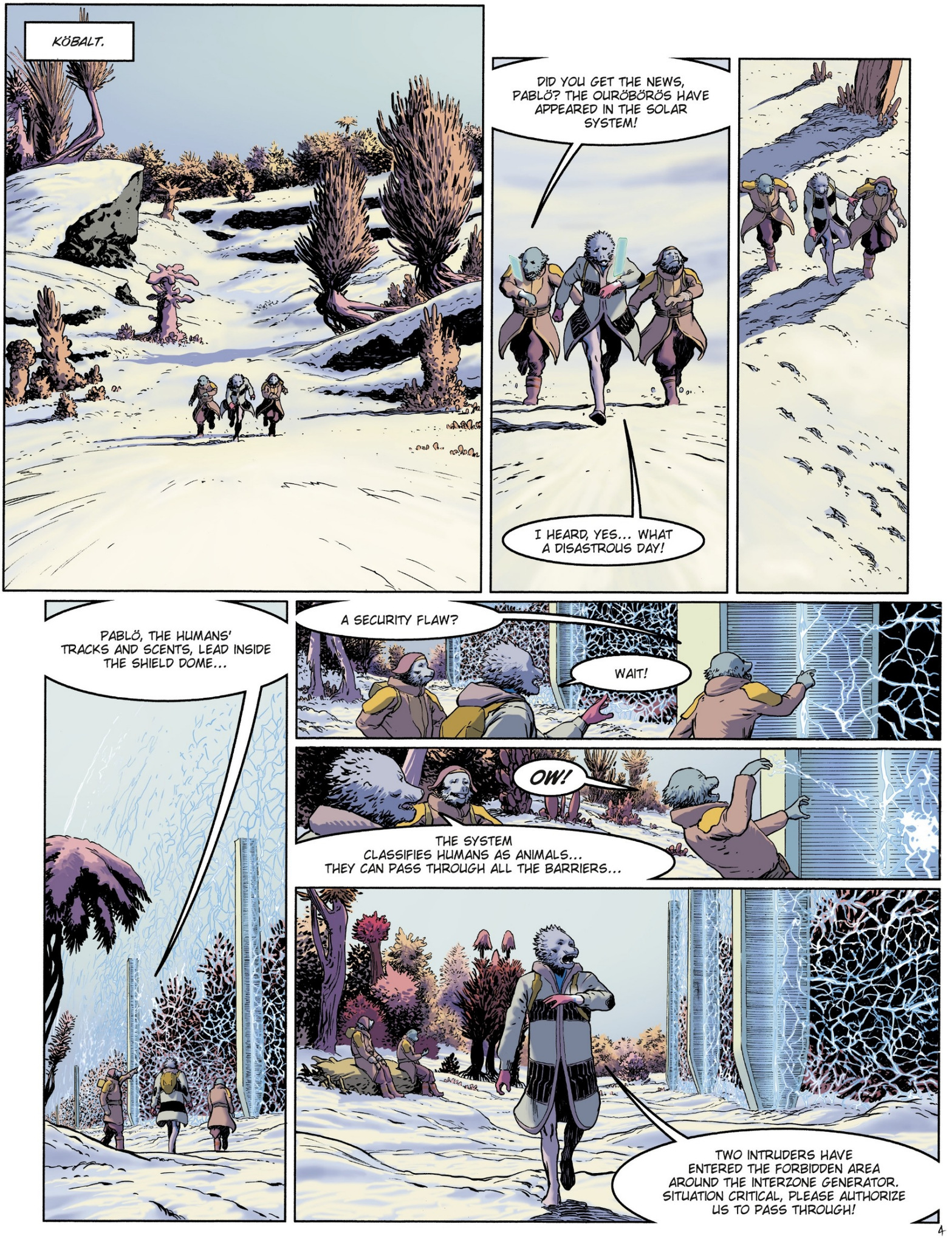
YES, LADY LISÄ. I CAN CONFIRM THAT THEY'RE THE SAME KINDS OF MACHINES, LIKELY ASSEMBLED FROM DIFFERENT WRECKAGES, THAT WERE BEHIND THE ATTACK ON THE HIGH WAVES PENAL COLONY...

THE OURÖBÖRÖS ARE EMPTYING XAR'S MINES AND BUILDING WAVE WALLS... WE NOW KNOW WHO ARMED SUI JURIS FOR THE ATTACK ON THE AUSTRALIS CENTER.


MA'AM, OFFICER CONRÄD! A NÄKÄN FORESTER ON A MISSION IN THE ANDES HAS JUST REPORTED THE PRESENCE OF A MALE OURÖBÖRÖS IN A HIGH ALTITUDE FARM! AN EMERGENCY MISSION IS UNDERWAY!

IT'S A PLANNED ATTACK! THE COMPLEX MUST SEND US WARSHIPS, QUICKLY!

3


KÖBALT.
DID YOU GET THE NEWS, PABLÖ? THE OURÖBÖRÖS HAVE APPEARED IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM!
I HEARD, YES... WHAT A DISASTROUS DAY!
PABLÖ, THE HUMANS' TRACKS AND SCENTS, LEAD INSIDE THE SHIELD DOME...
A SECURITY FLAW?
WAIT!
OW!
THE SYSTEM CLASSIFIES HUMANS AS ANIMALS... THEY CAN PASS THROUGH ALL THE BARRIERS...
TWO INTRUDERS HAVE ENTERED THE FORBIDDEN AREA AROUND THE INTERZONE GENERATOR. SITUATION CRITICAL, PLEASE AUTHORIZE US TO PASS THROUGH!

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WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE, PABLÖ?
I DON'T KNOW, MY FRIEND. BUT I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS... LET'S GO!
IF THE KIDS ARE MAKING A HUGE MISTAKE, HUMANITY'S FUTURE MIGHT BE IN DANGER. THEIR PLANET'S ENTRANCE INTO THE COMPLEX COULD BE DELAYED UNTIL THE NEXT MILLENIA...
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?
I DO, MY FRIEND. THE HUMANS ARE FRAGILE BUT THEIR MENTAL COMPLEXITY IS MAGNIFICENT. THEIR TENDENCY TOWARDS SELF-DESTRUCTION SOMETIMES LEADS THEM TO CREATE ART OF UNMATCHED INSIGHT.
APPARENTLY THEY ALSO RUINED THEIR PLANET IN JUST A FEW CENTURIES!
THAT'S TRUE... BUT THAT'S NOT A REASON TO EXCLUDE THEM FROM THE COMPLEX. WE'VE ALL BEEN THERE, EXCEPT NÄKÄN, MAYBE!
THE NÄKÄN! THE PERFECT BEINGS, THE MODEL CITIZENS... I THINK I PREFER EARTHLINGS!
PABLÖ! ONE OF YOUR PETS IS ABOUT TO BE EATEN BY KÖDIAKS!

AGENT JÄSON?
DOCTOR SÄTI, WE'RE CURRENTLY VERIFYING YOUR INFORMATION ABOUT THE REAL IDENTITY OF JENNIFER SMITH, BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I'M CALLING YOU BACK!
I HAVE NEWS ABOUT YOUR HYBRIDS, DOCTOR! IT'S CRAZY, BUT SWÄNN, YOUR PARTNER, WAS THE ONE FOUND THEM IN THE CHILEAN ALTIPLANO! AND THAT'S NOT ALL! I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING ON THE WAY!
I'M ONBOARD THE NORTHERN-EUROPEAN CARRIER, WE'LL BE ABOVE PARIS IN 60 SECONDS. BE READY!
SORRY FOR NOT TAKING YOU WITH ME...
JUST TAKE CARE OF SWÄNN, THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING!

IS THERE A PROBLEM?
AN UNKNOWN VESSEL DESTROYED A CARRIER AROUND MARS. AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS ARE SHARING VIDEOS, BUT FOR NOW, STILL NO COMMENT FROM RENAISSANCE.
SO, THE CARRIERS AREN'T INVINCIBLE...
I'M GOING TO LISTEN TO RADIO PARIS ON MY OLD RADIO. IT ALWAYS GETS THE NEWS BEFORE ANYONE ELSE!
...CIVIL WAR WITHIN THE COMPLEX, ATTACK BY A FOREIGN ALIEN POWER? WE DON'T KNOW, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS! RENAISSANCE'S SILENCE SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT THE DANGER HANGING OVER OUR BELOVED SYSTEM!
HIS VOICE! OF COURSE! I KNOW WHO HE IS! THIS IS CRAZY!

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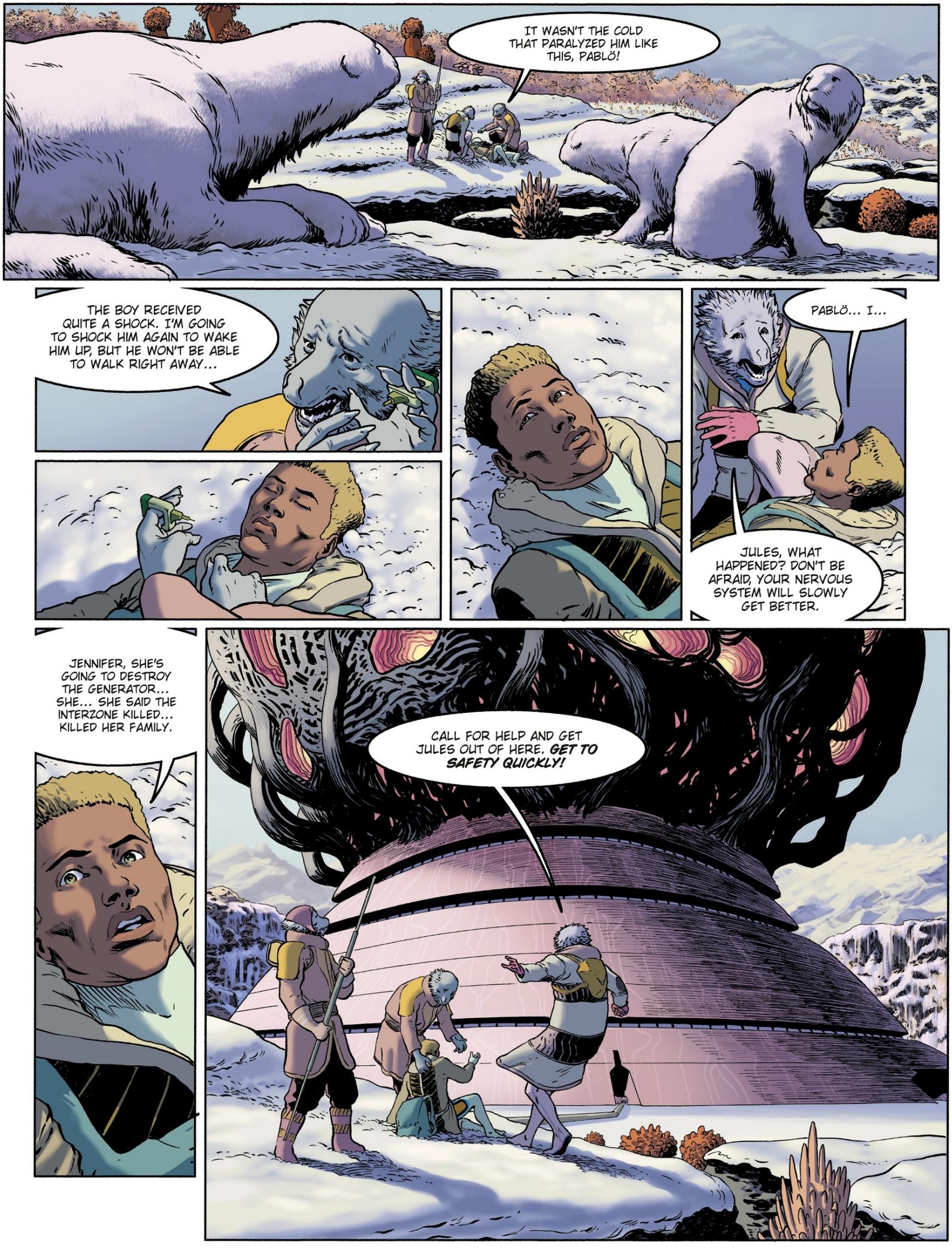
IT WASN'T THE COLD THAT PARALYZED HIM LIKE THIS, PABLÖ!
THE BOY RECEIVED QUITE A SHOCK. I'M GOING TO SHOCK HIM AGAIN TO WAKE HIM UP, BUT HE WON'T BE ABLE TO WALK RIGHT AWAY...
PABLÖ... I...
JULES, WHAT HAPPENED? DON'T BE AFRAID, YOUR NERVOUS SYSTEM WILL SLOWLY GET BETTER.
JENNIFER, SHE'S GOING TO DESTROY THE GENERATOR... SHE... SHE SAID THE INTERZONE KILLED... KILLED HER FAMILY.
CALL FOR HELP AND GET JULES OUT OF HERE. GET TO SAFETY QUICKLY!

YOU CAN'T STAY HERE!
JENNIFER!
GET AWAY, PABLÖ, EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BLOW!

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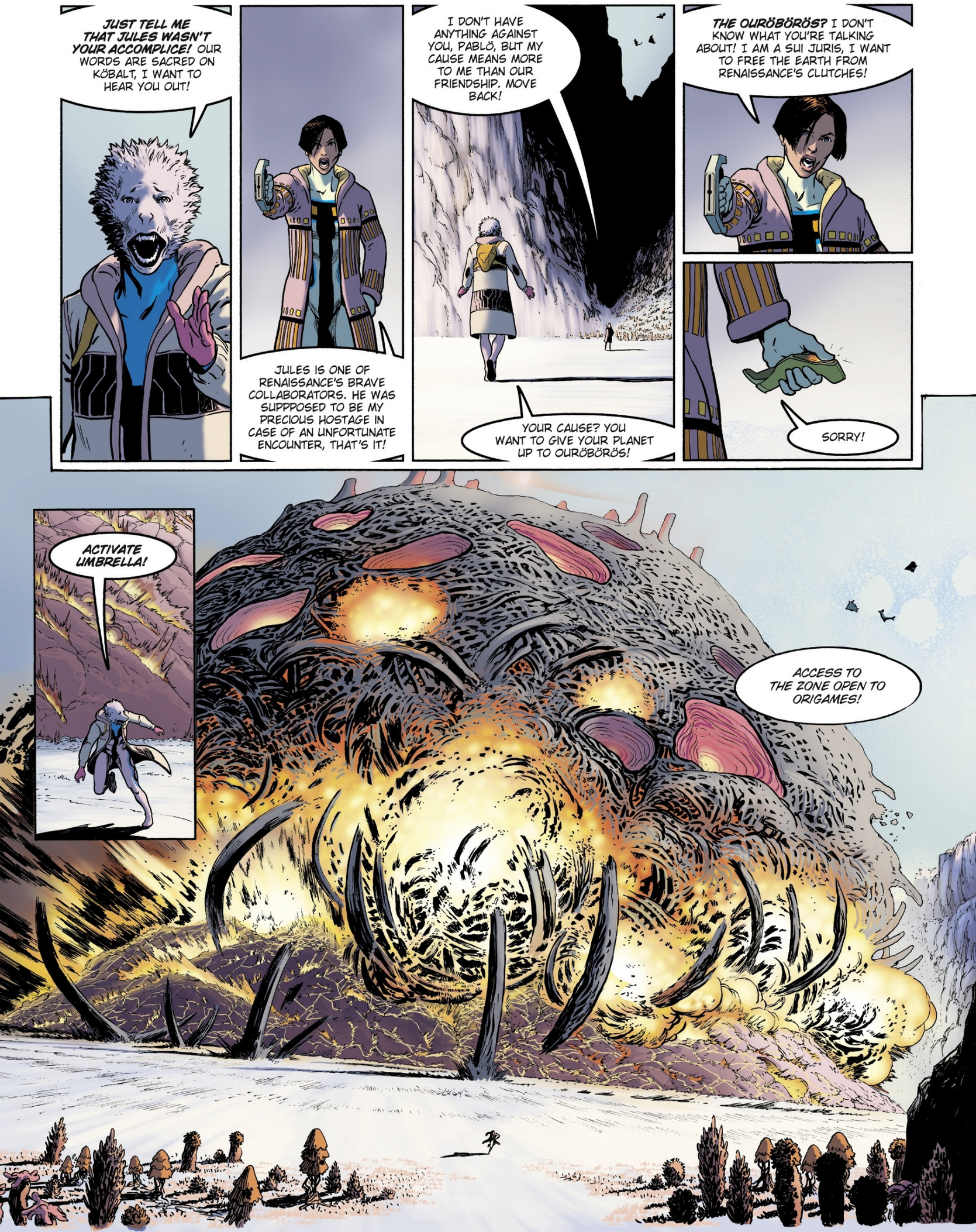
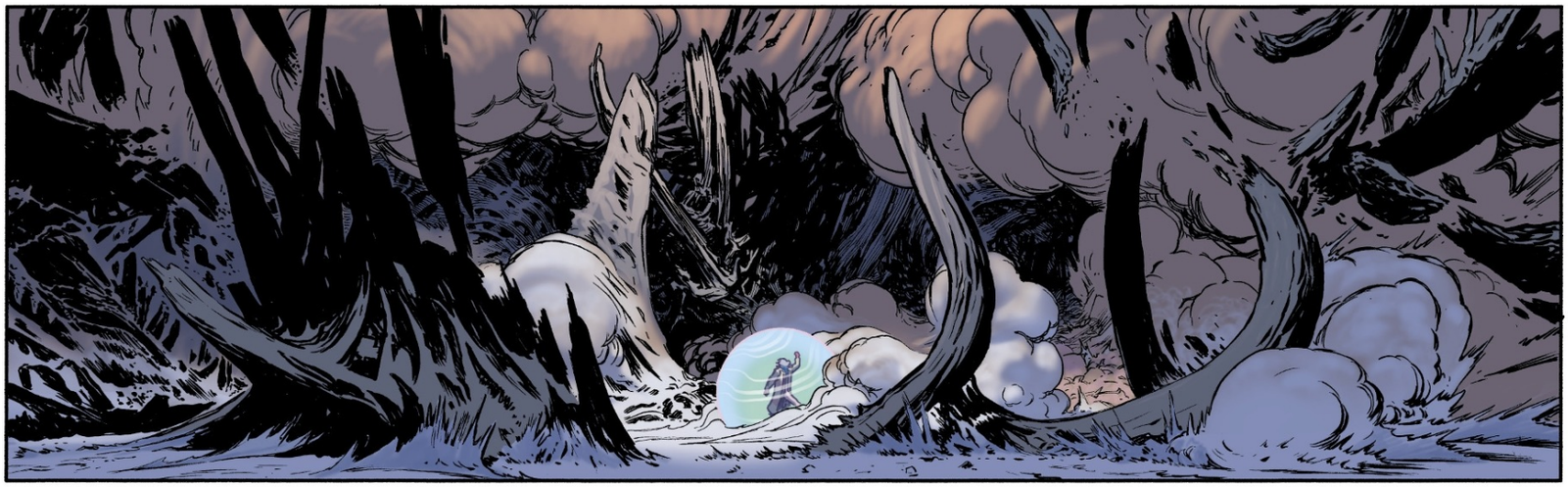
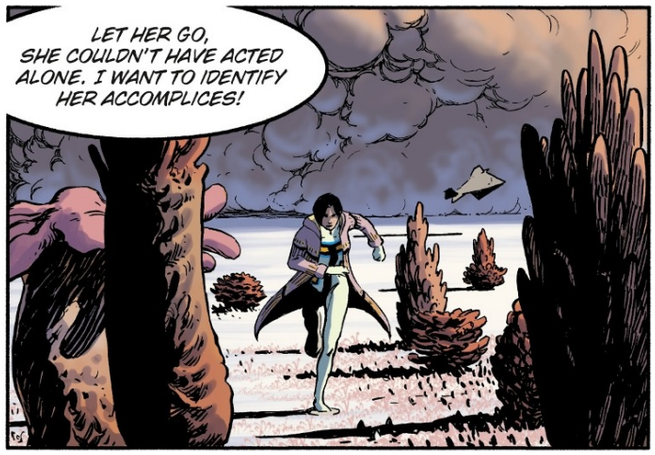
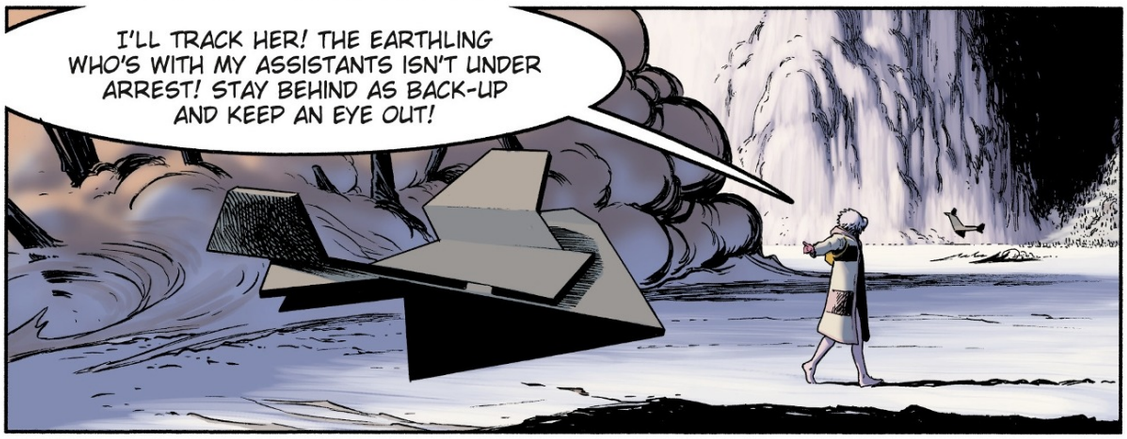

JUST TELL ME THAT JULES WASN'T YOUR ACCOMPLICE! OUR WORDS ARE SACRED ON KÖBALT, I WANT TO HEAR YOU OUT!
JULES IS ONE OF RENAISSANCE'S BRAVE COLLABORATORS. HE WAS SUPPPOSED TO BE MY PRECIOUS HOSTAGE IN CASE OF AN UNFORTUNATE ENCOUNTER, THAT'S IT!
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST YOU, PABLŐ, BUT MY CAUSE MEANS MORE TO ME THAN OUR FRIENDSHIP. MOVE BACK!
YOUR CAUSE? YOU WANT TO GIVE YOUR PLANET UP TO OURÖBÖRÖS!
THE OURÖBÖRÖS? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! I AM A SUI JURIS, I WANT TO FREE THE EARTH FROM RENAISSANCE'S CLUTCHES!
SORRY!
ACTIVATE UMBRELLA!
ACCESS TO THE ZONE OPEN TO ORIGAMES!

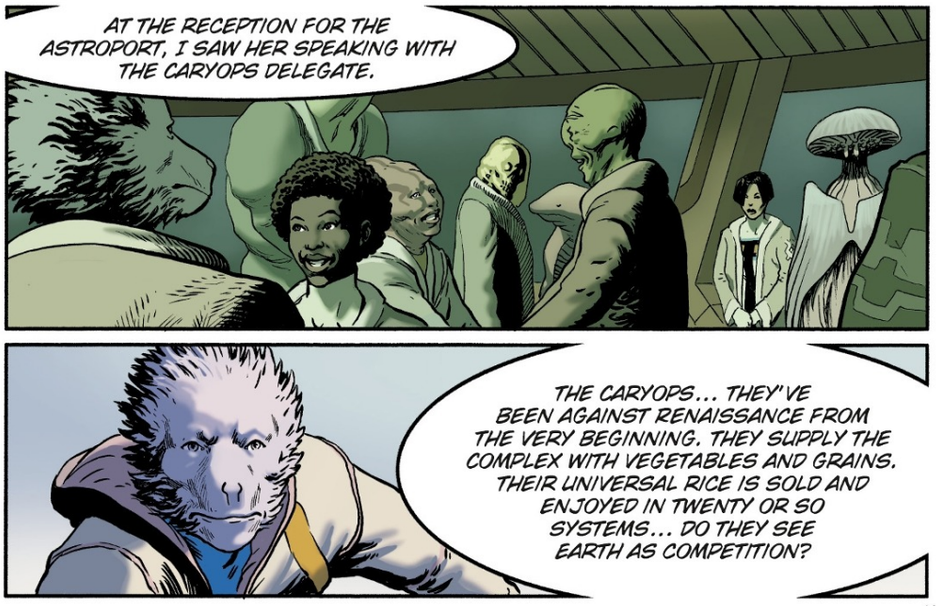



LET HER GO, SHE COULDN'T HAVE ACTED ALONE. I WANT TO IDENTIFY HER ACCOMPLICES!

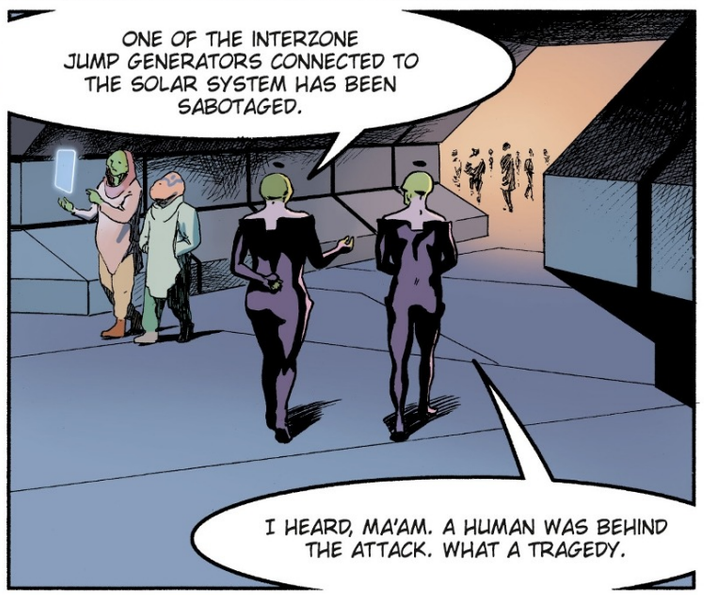

I'LL TRACK HER! THE EARTHLING WHO'S WITH MY ASSISTANTS ISN'T UNDER ARREST! STAY BEHIND AS BACK-UP AND KEEP AN EYE OUT!

JENNIFER'S ARMED WITH A SKUÄLL BLASTER...

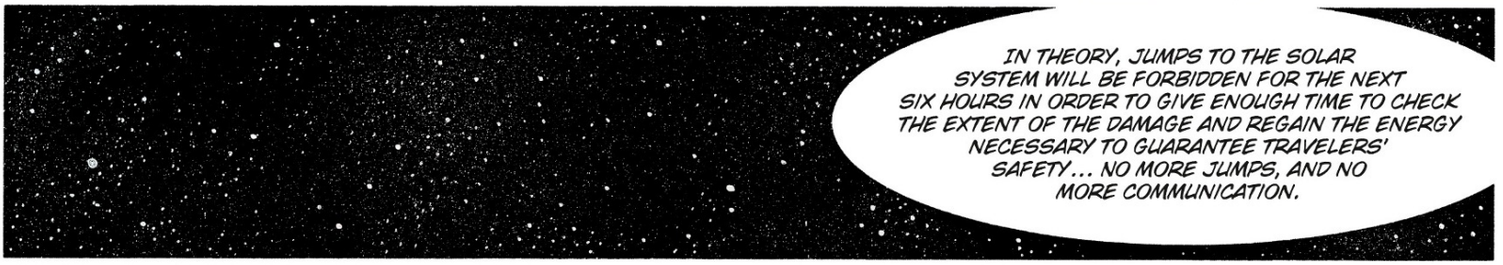
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE SKUÄLL ARE SUSPECTS...

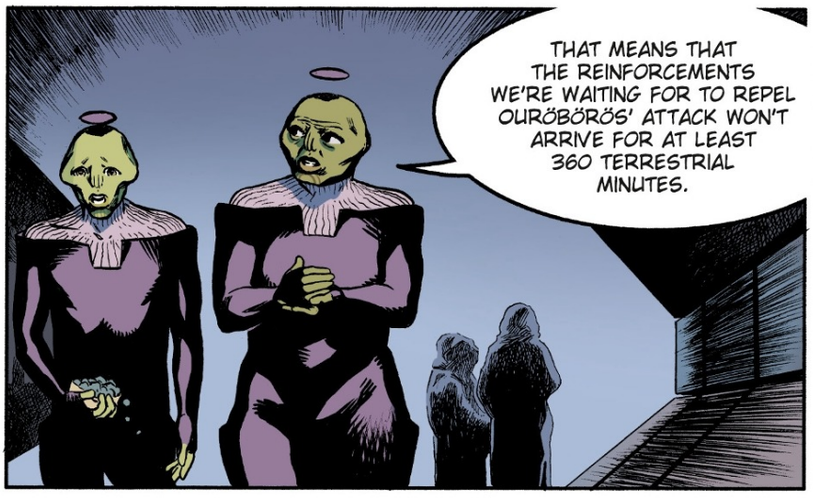

AT THE RECEPTION FOR THE ASTROPORT, I SAW HER SPEAKING WITH THE CARYOPS DELEGATE.
THE CARYOPS... THEY'VE BEEN AGAINST RENAISSANCE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. THEY SUPPLY THE COMPLEX WITH VEGETABLES AND GRAINS. THEIR UNIVERSAL RICE IS SOLD AND ENJOYED IN TWENTY OR SO SYSTEMS... DO THEY SEE EARTH AS COMPETITION?

A PROBLEM, MA'AM? YOU SEEM EXHAUSTED...


ONE OF THE INTERZONE JUMP GENERATORS CONNECTED TO THE SOLAR SYSTEM HAS BEEN SABOTAGED.
I HEARD, MA'AM. A HUMAN WAS BEHIND THE ATTACK. WHAT A TRAGEDY.

I ASSUME YOU'RE NOT FAMILIAR WITH INTERZONE SAFETY PROTOCOLS, MY FRIEND.


IN THEORY, JUMPS TO THE SOLAR SYSTEM WILL BE FORBIDDEN FOR THE NEXT SIX HOURS IN ORDER TO GIVE ENOUGH TIME TO CHECK THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE AND REGAIN THE ENERGY NECESSARY TO GUARANTEE TRAVELERS' SAFETY... NO MORE JUMPS, AND NO MORE COMMUNICATION.


THAT MEANS THAT THE REINFORCEMENTS WE'RE WAITING FOR TO REPEL OURÖBÖRÖS' ATTACK WON'T ARRIVE FOR AT LEAST 360 TERRESTRIAL MINUTES.

THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME FOR OURÖBÖRÖS TO DESTROY RENAISSANCE AND PILLAGE THE EARTH.

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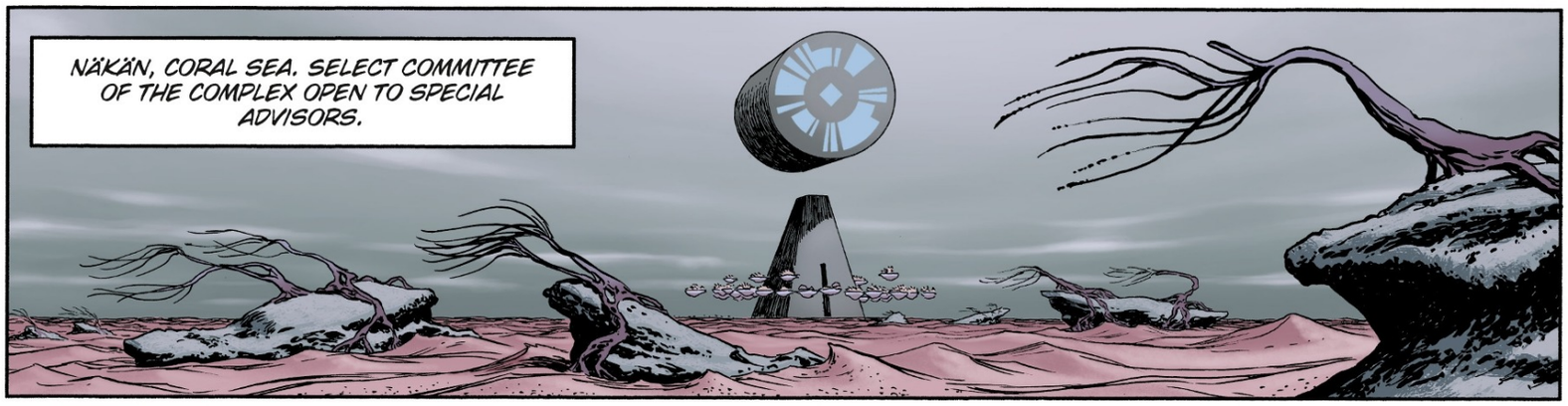
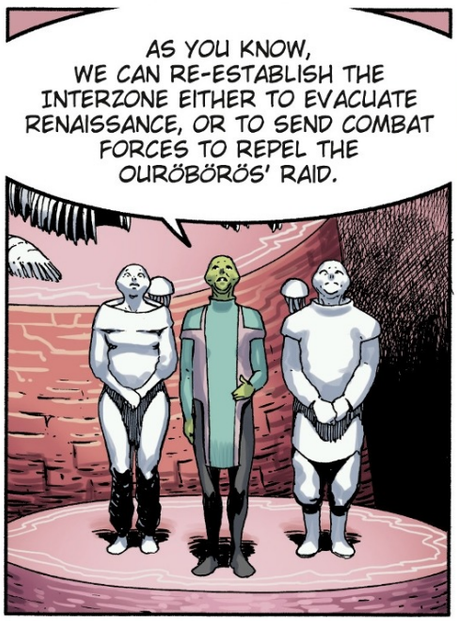
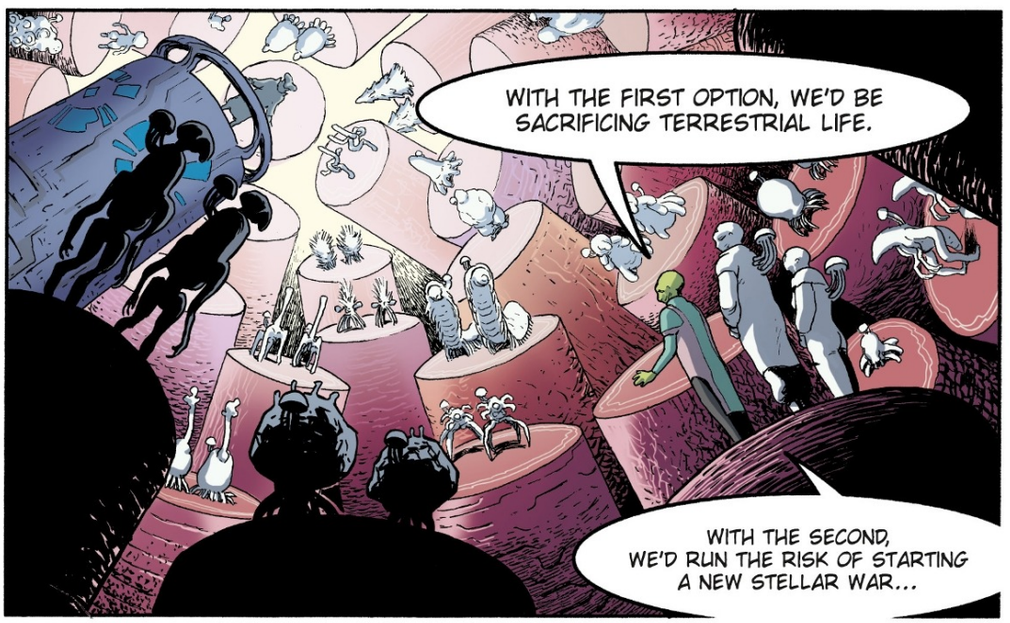
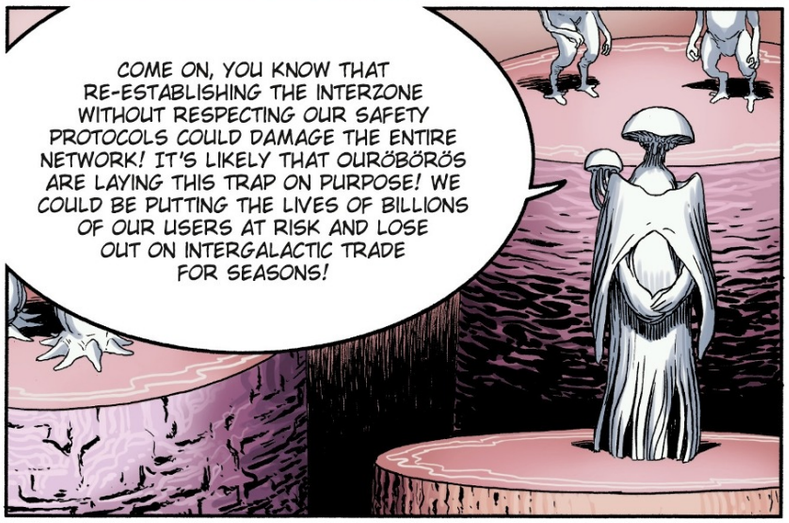
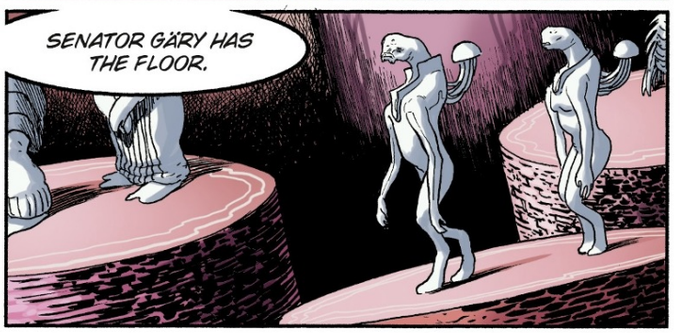

NÄKÄN, CORAL SEA. SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE COMPLEX OPEN TO SPECIAL ADVISORS.


AS YOU KNOW, WE CAN RE-ESTABLISH THE INTERZONE EITHER TO EVACUATE RENAISSANCE, OR TO SEND COMBAT FORCES TO REPEL THE OURÖBÖRÖS' RAID.


WITH THE FIRST OPTION, WE'D BE SACRIFICING TERRESTRIAL LIFE.
WITH THE SECOND, WE'D RUN THE RISK OF STARTING A NEW STELLAR WAR...


COME ON, YOU KNOW THAT RE-ESTABLISHING THE INTERZONE WITHOUT RESPECTING OUR SAFETY PROTOCOLS COULD DAMAGE THE ENTIRE NETWORK! IT'S LIKELY THAT OURÖBÖRÖS ARE LAYING THIS TRAP ON PURPOSE! WE COULD BE PUTTING THE LIVES OF BILLIONS OF OUR USERS AT RISK AND LOSE OUT ON INTERGALACTIC TRADE FOR SEASONS!

CARYOPS IS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THIS INITIATIVE!


SENATOR GÄRY HAS THE FLOOR.

I HAVE OLD FRIENDS WHO LIVE IN THAT SYSTEM. SENATOR LISÄ, WHO IS RESPECTED FAR BEYOND THE BORDERS OF THE COMPLEX, AND SEVERAL HUNDRED OF MY PEOPLE, WHO ARE WORKING IN SPACE STATIONS AND MINES ON THE MOONS OF JUPITER.

BUT MY RECOMMENDATION IS THAT WE DO NOT RE-ESTABLISH THE INTERZONE... THE RISK IS TOO GREAT.

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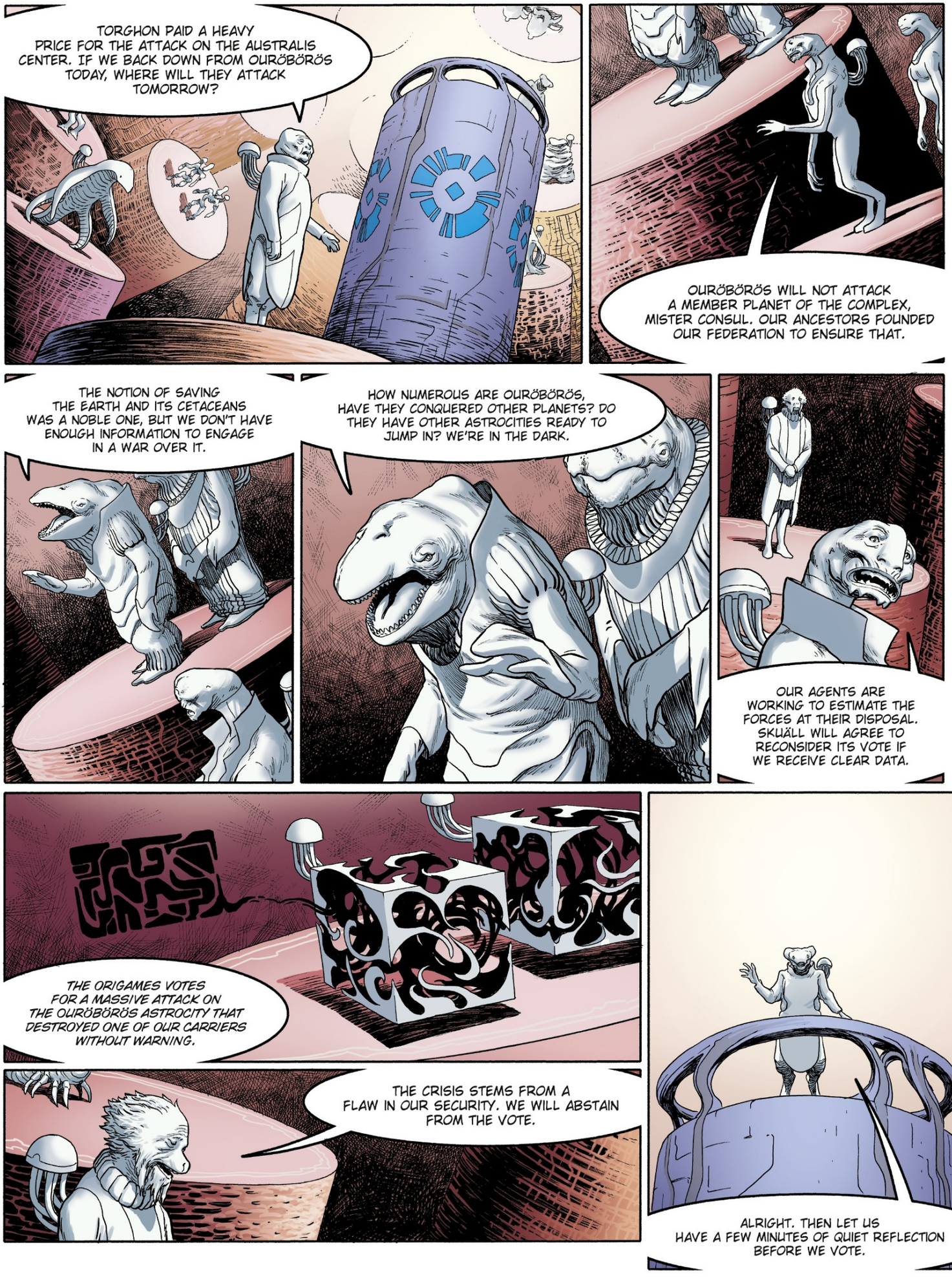
TORGHON PAID A HEAVY PRICE FOR THE ATTACK ON THE AUSTRALIS CENTER. IF WE BACK DOWN FROM OURÖBÖRÖS TODAY, WHERE WILL THEY ATTACK TOMORROW?
OURÖBÖRÖS WILL NOT ATTACK A MEMBER PLANET OF THE COMPLEX, MISTER CONSUL. OUR ANCESTORS FOUNDED OUR FEDERATION TO ENSURE THAT.
THE NOTION OF SAVING THE EARTH AND ITS CETACEANS WAS A NOBLE ONE, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO ENGAGE IN A WAR OVER IT.
HOW NUMEROUS ARE OURÖBÖRÖS, HAVE THEY CONQUERED OTHER PLANETS? DO THEY HAVE OTHER ASTROCITIES READY TO JUMP IN? WE'RE IN THE DARK.
OUR AGENTS ARE WORKING TO ESTIMATE THE FORCES AT THEIR DISPOSAL. SKUÄLL WILL AGREE TO RECONSIDER ITS VOTE IF WE RECEIVE CLEAR DATA.
THE ORIGAMES VOTES FOR A MASSIVE ATTACK ON THE OURÖBÖRÖS ASTROCITY THAT DESTROYED ONE OF OUR CARRIERS WITHOUT WARNING.
THE CRISIS STEMS FROM A FLAW IN OUR SECURITY. WE WILL ABSTAIN FROM THE VOTE.
ALRIGHT. THEN LET US HAVE A FEW MINUTES OF QUIET REFLECTION BEFORE WE VOTE.

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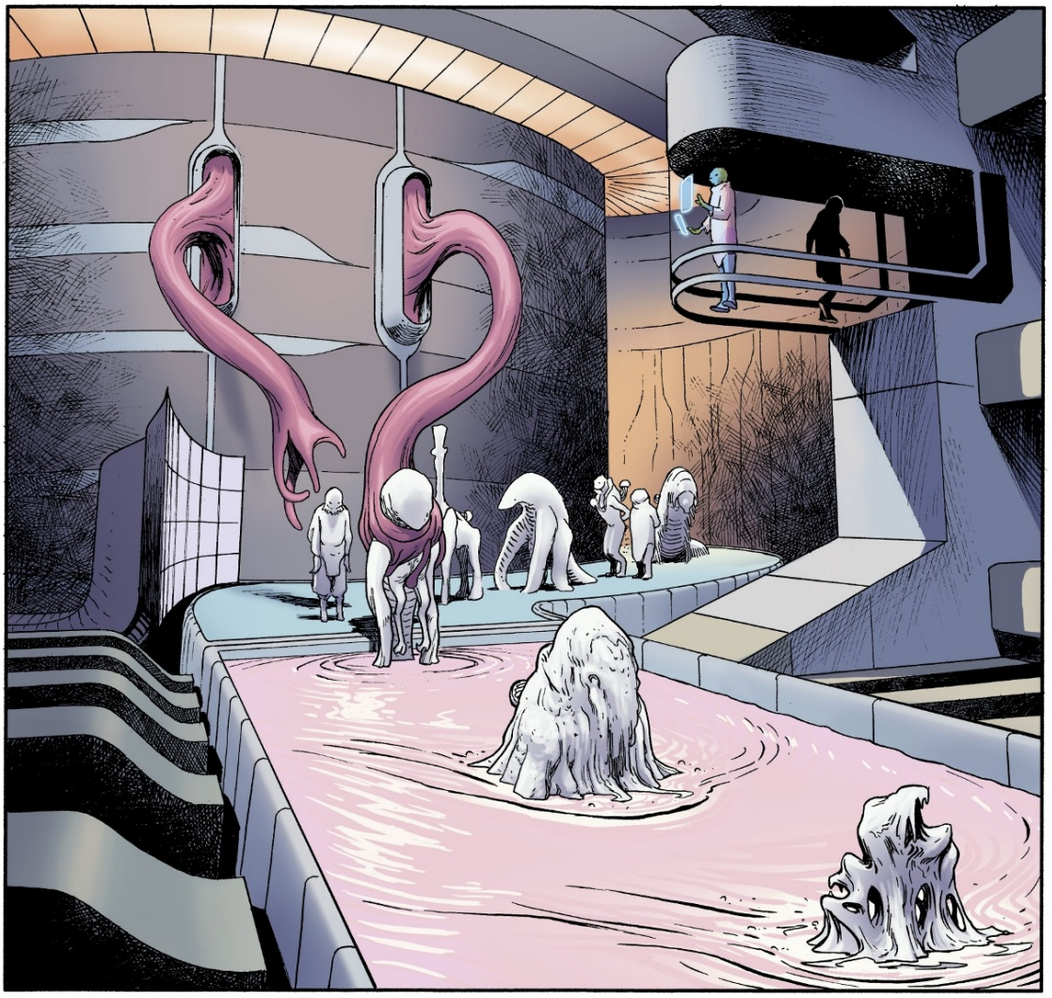
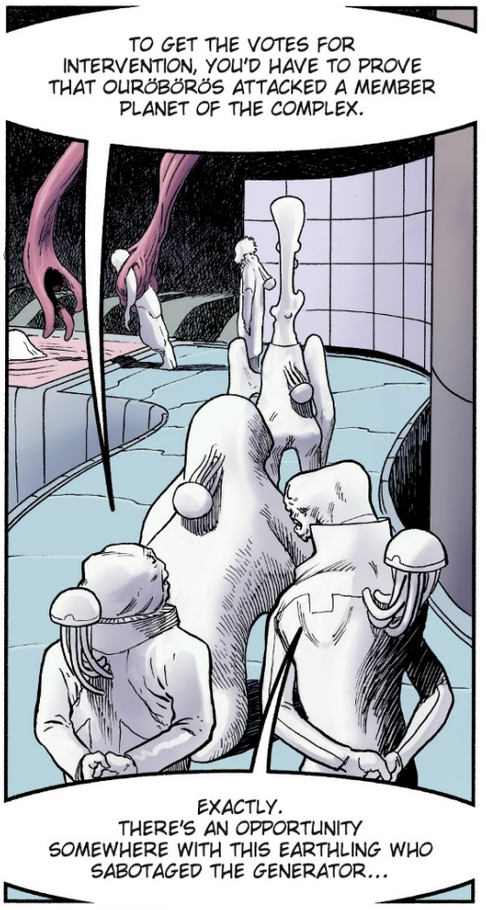
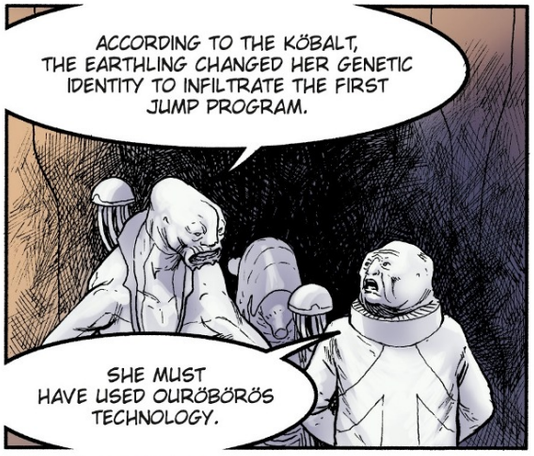
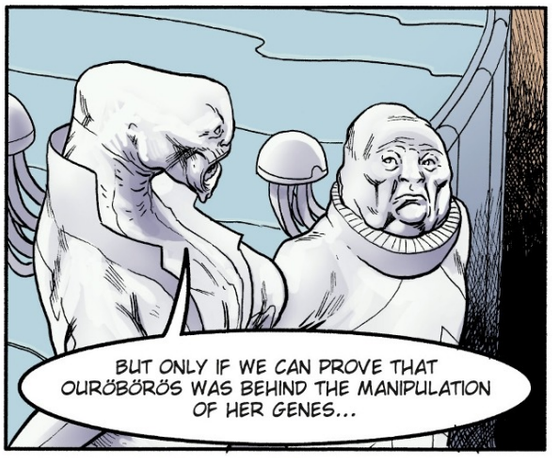


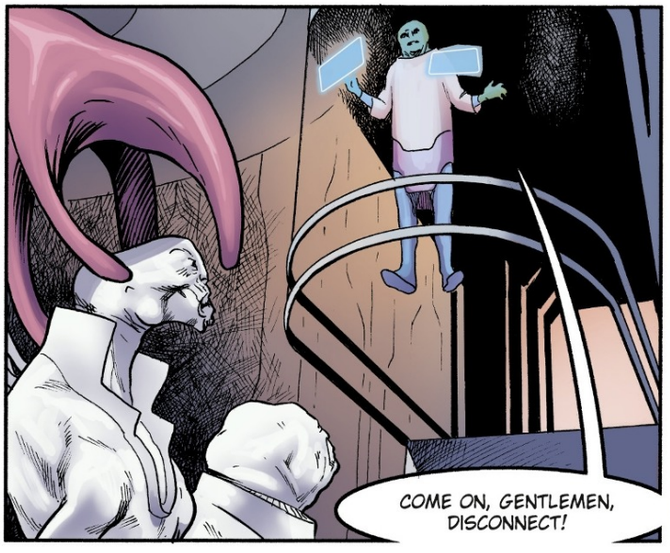

TO GET THE VOTES FOR INTERVENTION, YOU'D HAVE TO PROVE THAT OURÖBÖRÖS ATTACKED A MEMBER PLANET OF THE COMPLEX.
EXACTLY. THERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY SOMEWHERE WITH THIS EARTHLING WHO SABOTAGED THE GENERATOR...

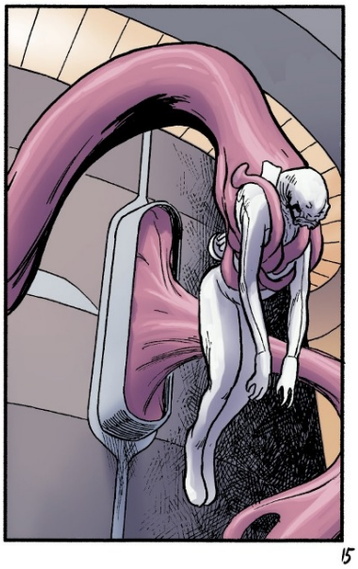

ACCORDING TO THE KÖBALT, THE EARTHLING CHANGED HER GENETIC IDENTITY TO INFILTRATE THE FIRST JUMP PROGRAM.
SHE MUST HAVE USED OURÖBÖRÖS TECHNOLOGY.

TECHNICALLY, SHE'S NOT AN EARTHLING ANYMORE, SHE'S AN OURÖBÖRÖS WEAPON.


BUT ONLY IF WE CAN PROVE THAT OURÖBÖRÖS WAS BEHIND THE MANIPULATION OF HER GENES...

I'LL PUT ALL MY TEAMS ON IT.


COME ON, GENTLEMEN, DISCONNECT!



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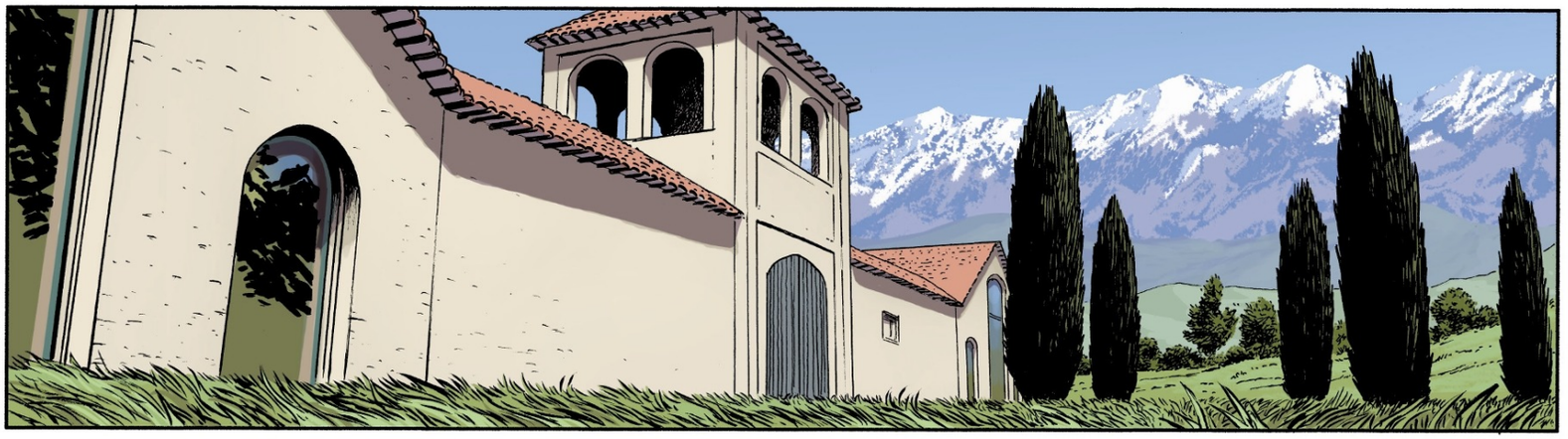
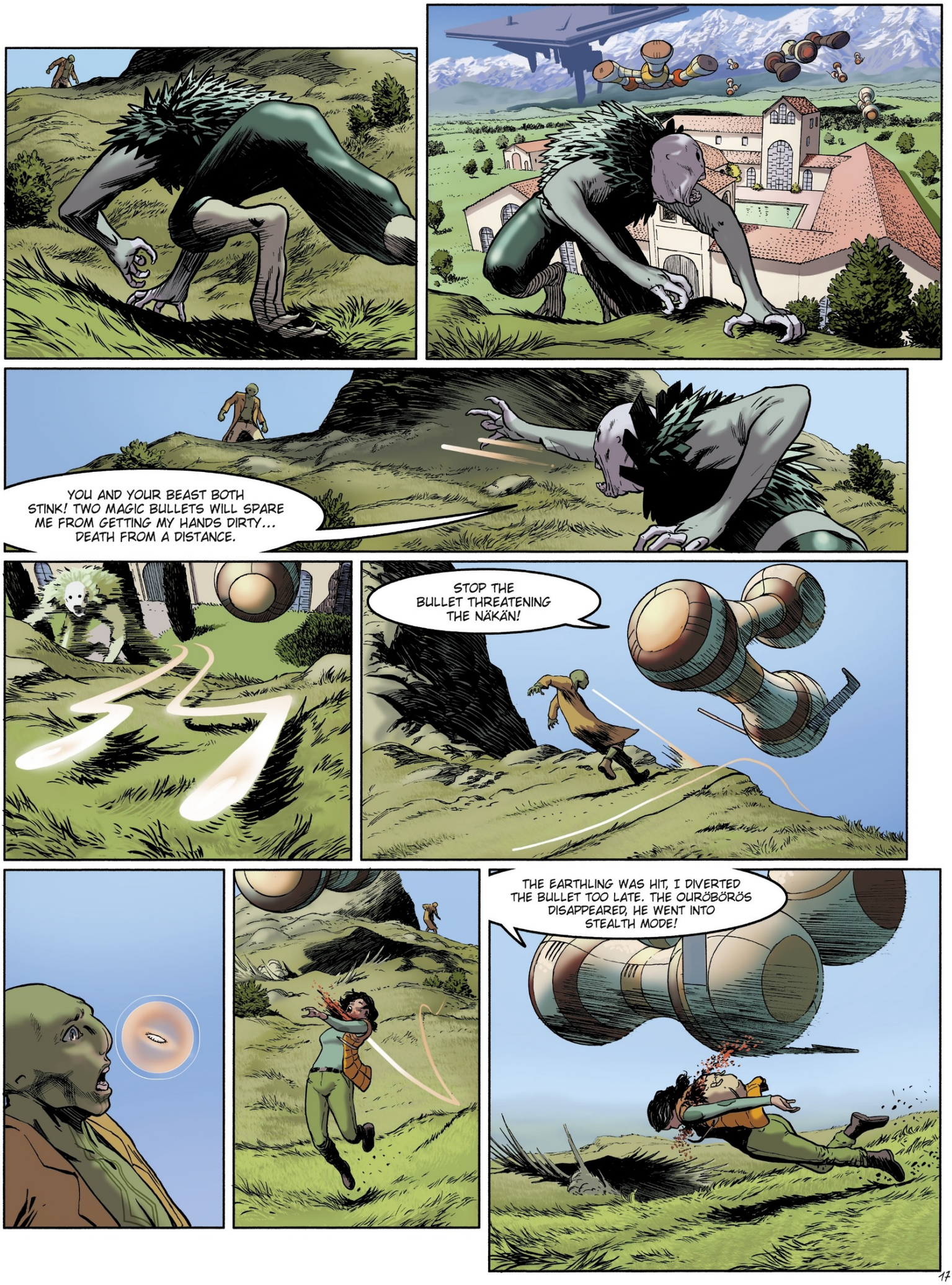
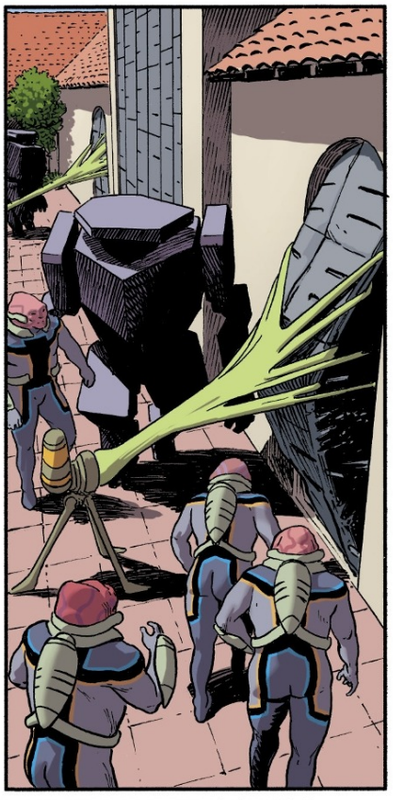
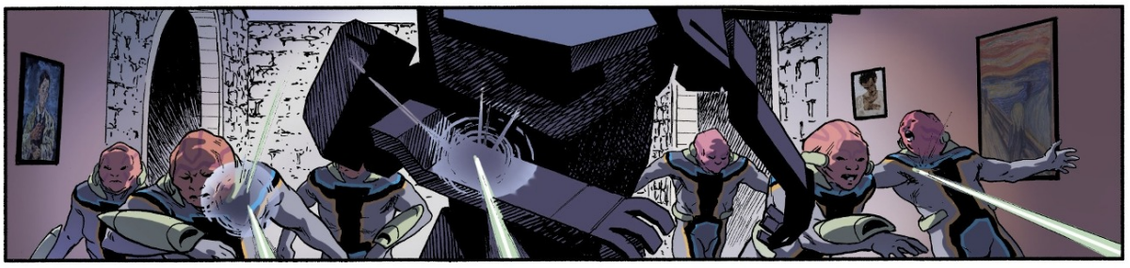


MISTER DORIAN, TAKE THE CHILDREN TO SAFETY AND ARM YOURSELF... A SOFT BREEZE ALLOWED ME TO PERCEIVE THE TRAITOROUS PRESENCE OF A NÄKÄN SUBJECT AND A HUMAN.

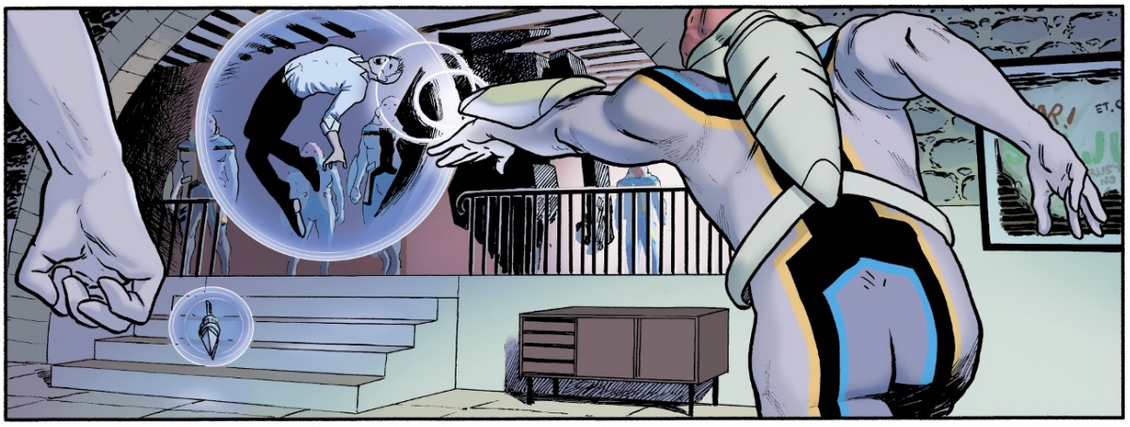
OURÖBÖRÖS! SPOTTED! RUN!


YOU AND YOUR BEAST BOTH STINK! TWO MAGIC BULLETS WILL SPARE ME FROM GETTING MY HANDS DIRTY... DEATH FROM A DISTANCE.
STOP THE BULLET THREATENING THE NÄKÄN!
THE EARTHLING WAS HIT, I DIVERTED THE BULLET TOO LATE. THE OURÖBÖRÖS DISAPPEARED, HE WENT INTO STEALTH MODE!

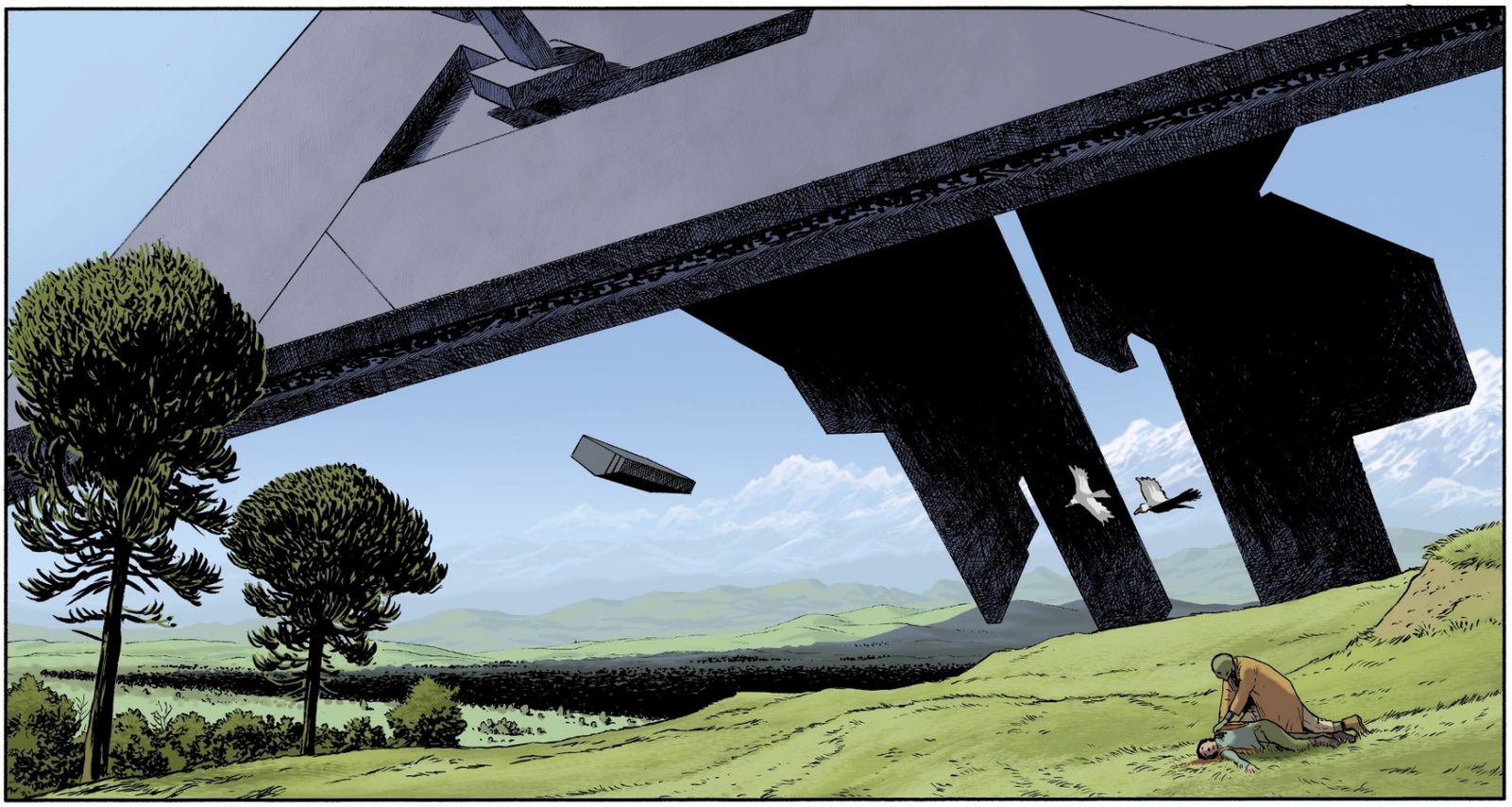




THE ATTACKER MATCHES THE DESCRIPTION OF ERIK CASTEL, THE MAN WHO KILLED 983 OF OUR PEOPLE! MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF PAIN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.



WE'RE GOING TO BREACH THE PANIC ROOM!
TWO HYBRIDS... INOFFENSIVE.
BLASTER OF UNKNOWN MAKE SEALED.
DAD!
DAD!
AGENT JÄSON, THE PRISONERS ARE AT YOUR DISPOSAL!
?!
RELEASE HIM, STOP THE PAIN, AND LOCK HIM IN A CELL. CRUELTY AND REVENGE ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE, UNDERSTOOD?
THE HYBRIDS WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO DOCTOR SÄTIE!



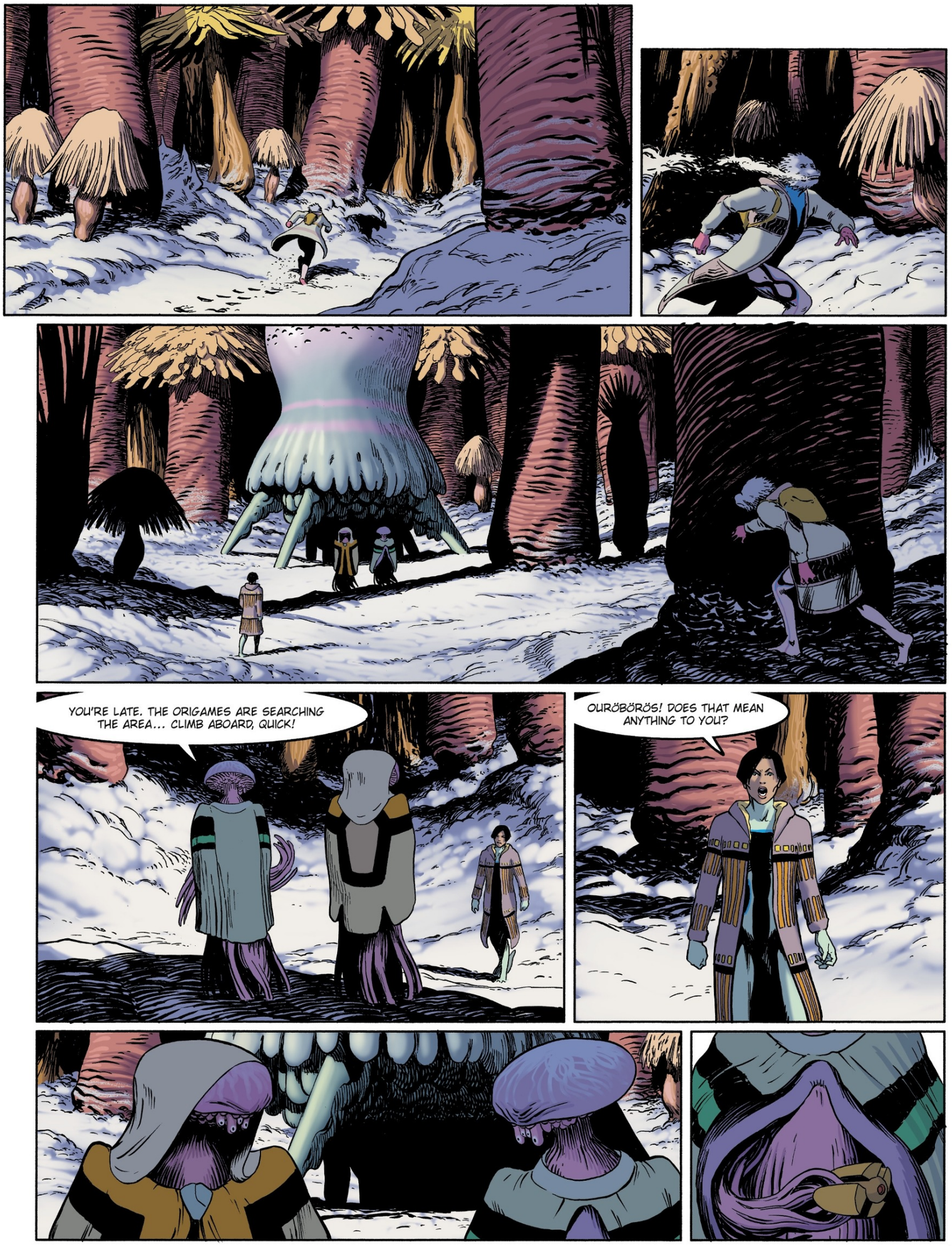
SÄTIE?!

SÄTIE, CAN YOU SAVE HER??
I DON'T KNOW HOW LETHAL OURÖBÖRÖS' WEAPONS ARE... WE HAVE TO BRING HER TO THE SICKBAY ON THE TORGHON CRUISER. THEIR MEDICAL TEAM CAN TREAT HER.

LIZ'S BULLET WAS TREATED AFTER MINE. I'M A SOLDIER, I THOUGHT WE CAME HERE TO RESCUE THE EARTHLINGS...
IT'S PROTOCOL, SWÄNN. IN THE CASE OF AN EXTERNAL THREAT, THE PROTECTION OF MEMBERS OF RENAISSANCE IS OUR PRIORITY.

20

WELL, IT'S A BASIC IMPLANT KIT, BUT YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH ABOUT 80% OF HUMANS AGAIN.
THANKS, DOC. I NEED TO RECOVER MY WEAPONS. SHOULD I SEE THE ARMORER ON THE CRUISER?
YOU'VE GOT IT!
SWÄNN, YOU'RE INJURED. YOU SHOULD LET ME SCAN YOU.
THE OURÖBÖRÖS IS STILL OUT THERE, SÄTIE!
SHE'S RIGHT, MY BOY, WE HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE TO TRACK HIM DOWN. IT'S A MATTER OF MINUTES...
I'M NOT MUCH OF A SOLDIER AND I DON'T KNOW A LOT ABOUT POLITICS, BUT THERE'S ONE THING I KNOW MORE ABOUT THAN THE REST OF YOU... THE OURÖBÖRÖS.
I STUDIED THEM AT THE FORESTER'S ACADEMY. DON'T ASK ME WHY, IT WAS ONE OF THE ELECTIVES IN THE HISTORY PROGRAM. I WAS MOST INTERESTED IN HOW TO HUNT THEM...
I'M GOING TO FLUSH OUT THE OURÖBÖRÖS AND CAPTURE IT ALIVE. THIS WILL BE MY LAST ACT FOR RENAISSANCE.
AND WHAT ABOUT AFTER? YOU HAVEN'T ASKED ANYTHING ABOUT OUR CHILD...
AFTERWARDS, I'M GOING TO GO HOME.

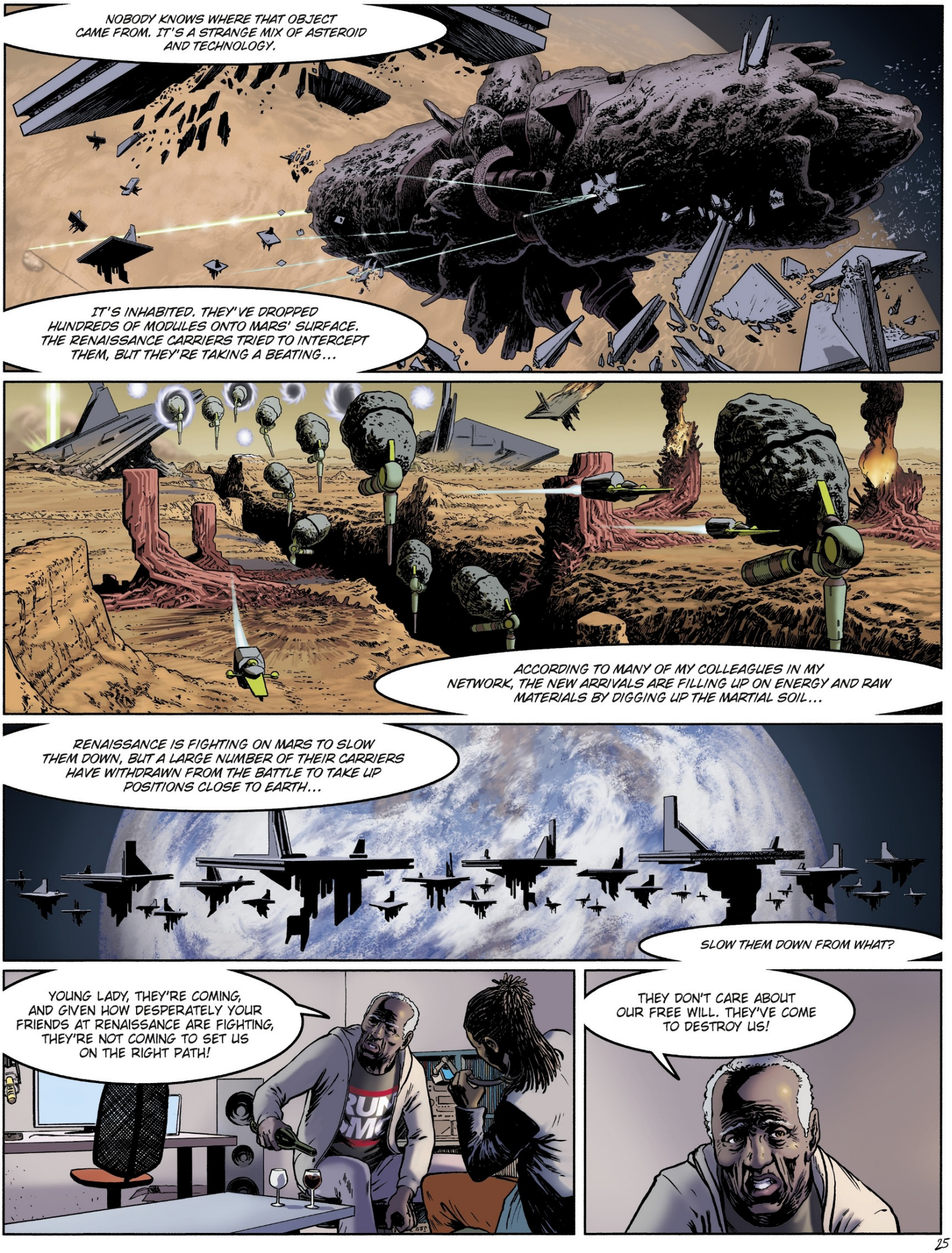

YOU'RE LATE. THE ORIGAMES ARE SEARCHING THE AREA... CLIMB ABOARD, QUICK!
OURÖBÖRÖS! DOES THAT MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

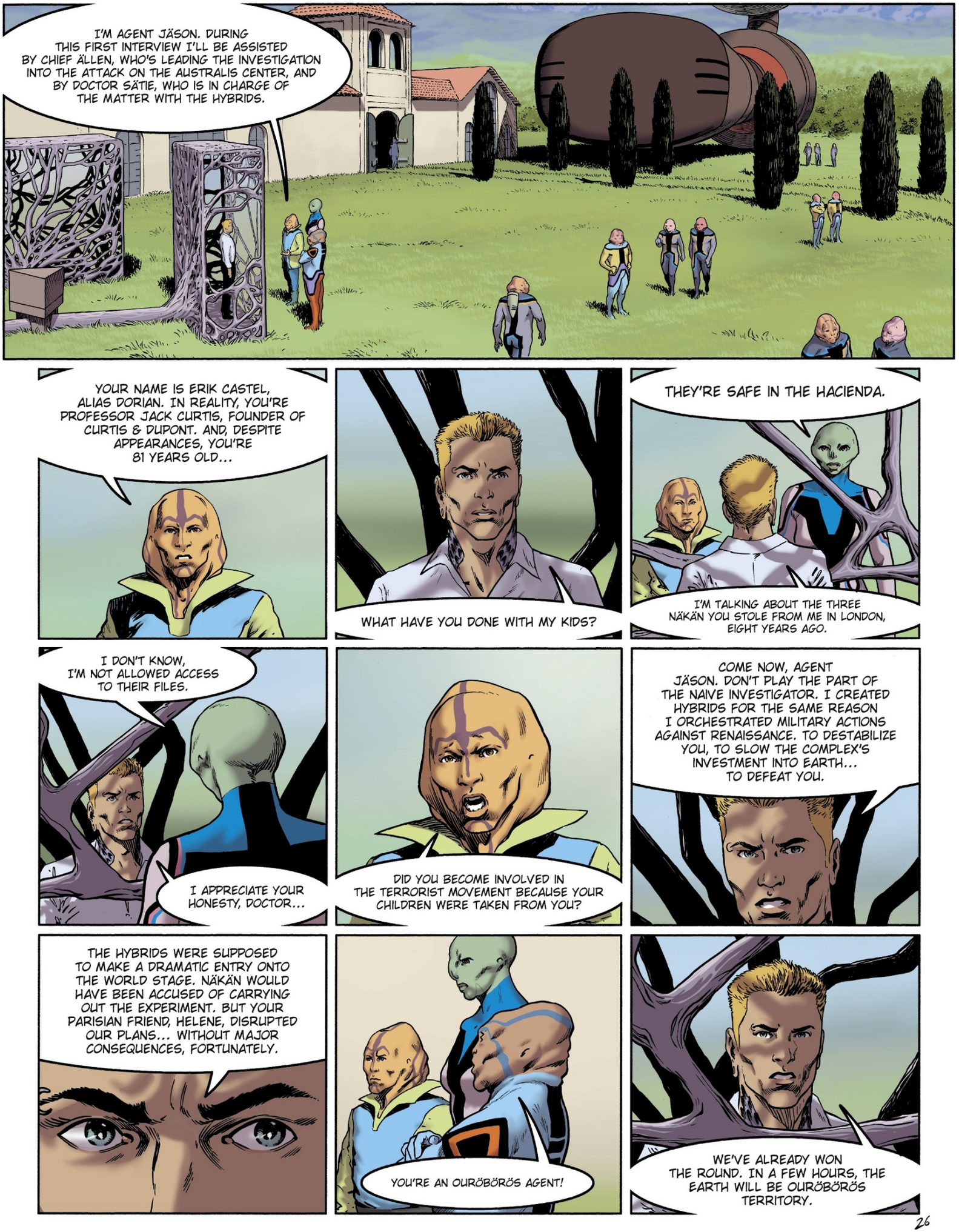
22

JENNIFER... KATE... THEY USED YOU... LOWER YOUR WEAPON, YOU HAVE NO CHANCE OF SURVIVING IN THE COLD.
LEAVE ME ALONE, PABLÖ!
ASHTRÖ, I HAVE PROOF OF CARYOPS' COLLUSION IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE JUMP GENERATOR.
ONE OF MY LEGS IS INJURED. I NEED HELP.

YES?
RADIO PARIS?
COME IN.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU LISTED TO MY BROADCASTS...
EVER SINCE THE FEVER AND THE RISING WATERS TWENTY YEARS AGO WHEN I TOOK REFUGE IN THE EIFFEL TOWER... YOUR SHOW WAS THE ONLY THING THAT MADE ME SMILE.
MY SON IS PART OF THE DELEGATION ON KÖBALT. I'M AFRAID... DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE OBJECT THAT APPEARED NEAR MARS?
THE BATTLE OVER MARS IS UNDERWAY...
HERE, THIS WILL CONNECT YOU TO MY TELESCOPE.

24


NOBODY KNOWS WHERE THAT OBJECT CAME FROM. IT'S A STRANGE MIX OF ASTEROID AND TECHNOLOGY.
IT'S INHABITED. THEY'VE DROPPED HUNDREDS OF MODULES ONTO MARS' SURFACE. THE RENAISSANCE CARRIERS TRIED TO INTERCEPT THEM, BUT THEY'RE TAKING A BEATING...
ACCORDING TO MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES IN MY NETWORK, THE NEW ARRIVALS ARE FILLING UP ON ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS BY DIGGING UP THE MARTIAL SOIL...
RENAISSANCE IS FIGHTING ON MARS TO SLOW THEM DOWN, BUT A LARGE NUMBER OF THEIR CARRIERS HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM THE BATTLE TO TAKE UP POSITIONS CLOSE TO EARTH...
SLOW THEM DOWN FROM WHAT?
YOUNG LADY, THEY'RE COMING, AND GIVEN HOW DESPERATELY YOUR FRIENDS AT RENAISSANCE ARE FIGHTING, THEY'RE NOT COMING TO SET US ON THE RIGHT PATH!
THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT OUR FREE WILL. THEY'VE COME TO DESTROY US!


I'M AGENT JÄSON. DURING THIS FIRST INTERVIEW I'LL BE ASSISTED BY CHIEF ÄLLEN, WHO'S LEADING THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE ATTACK ON THE AUSTRALIS CENTER, AND BY DOCTOR SÄTIE, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE MATTER WITH THE HYBRIDS.
YOUR NAME IS ERIK CASTEL, ALIAS DORIAN. IN REALITY, YOU'RE PROFESSOR JACK CURTIS, FOUNDER OF CURTIS & DUPONT. AND, DESPITE APPEARANCES, YOU'RE 81 YEARS OLD...
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY KIDS?
THEY'RE SAFE IN THE HACIENDA.
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE THREE NÄKÄN YOU STOLE FROM ME IN LONDON, EIGHT YEARS AGO.
I DON'T KNOW, I'M NOT ALLOWED ACCESS TO THEIR FILES.
I APPRECIATE YOUR HONESTY, DOCTOR...
DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE TERRORIST MOVEMENT BECAUSE YOUR CHILDREN WERE TAKEN FROM YOU?
COME NOW, AGENT JÄSON. DON'T PLAY THE PART OF THE NAIVE INVESTIGATOR. I CREATED HYBRIDS FOR THE SAME REASON I ORCHESTRATED MILITARY ACTIONS AGAINST RENAISSANCE. TO DESTABILIZE YOU, TO SLOW THE COMPLEX'S INVESTMENT INTO EARTH... TO DEFEAT YOU.
THE HYBRIDS WERE SUPPOSED TO MAKE A DRAMATIC ENTRY ONTO THE WORLD STAGE. NÄKÄN WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF CARRYING OUT THE EXPERIMENT. BUT YOUR PARISIAN FRIEND, HELENE, DISRUPTED OUR PLANS... WITHOUT MAJOR CONSEQUENCES, FORTUNATELY.
YOU'RE AN OURÖBÖRÖS AGENT!
WE'VE ALREADY WON THE ROUND. IN A FEW HOURS, THE EARTH WILL BE OURÖBÖRÖS TERRITORY.

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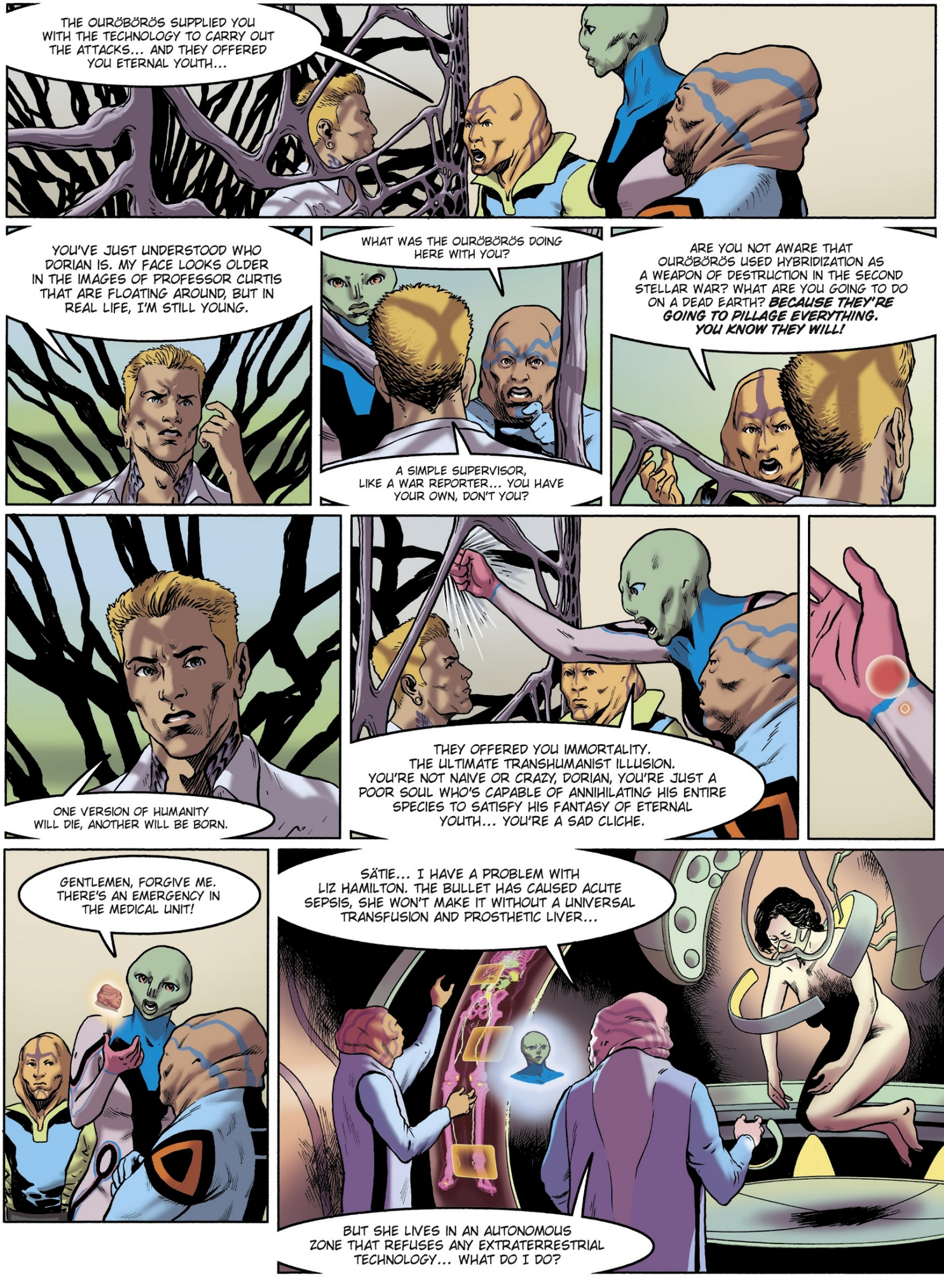
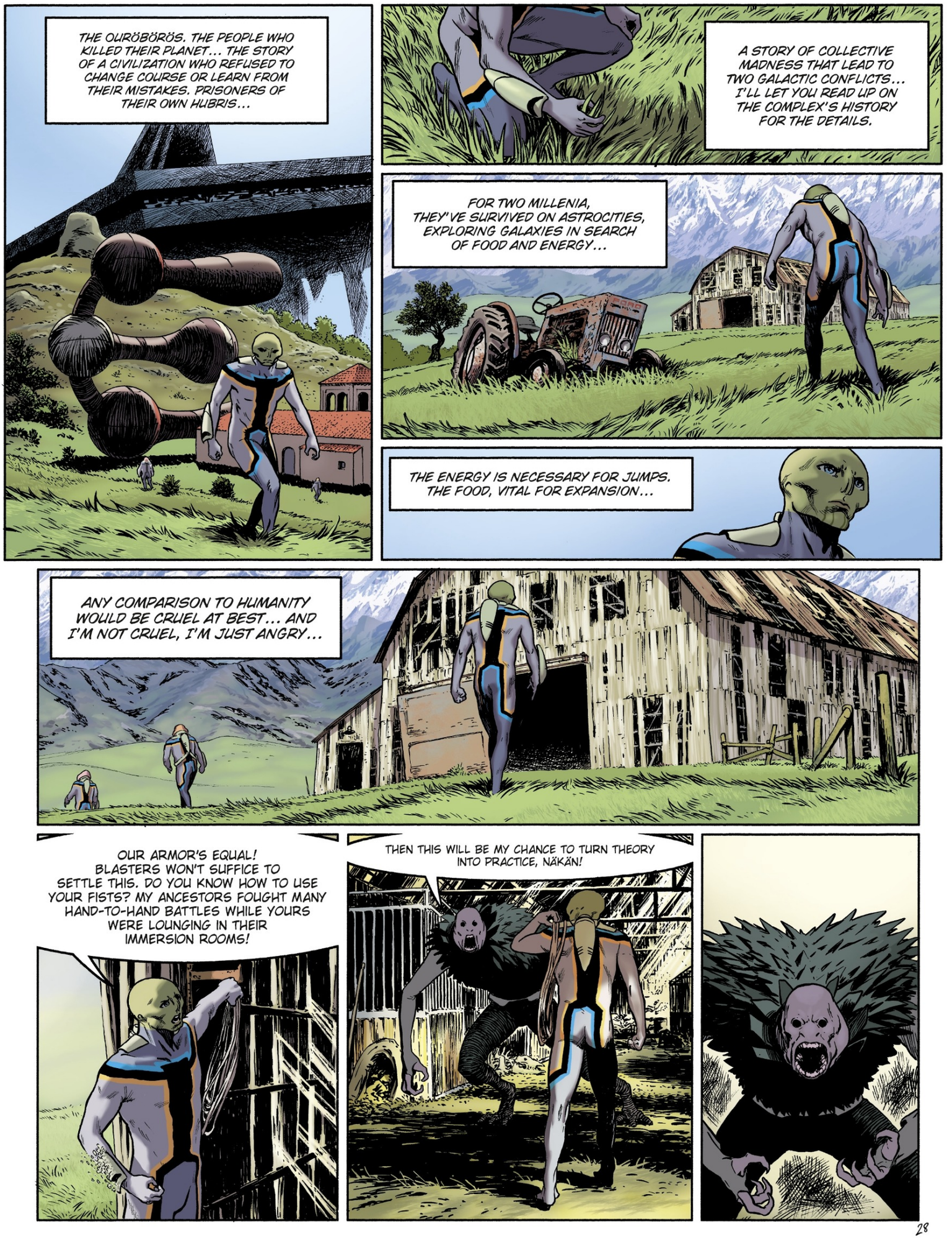

THE OURÖBÖRÖS SUPPLIED YOU WITH THE TECHNOLOGY TO CARRY OUT THE ATTACKS... AND THEY OFFERED YOU ETERNAL YOUTH...
YOU'VE JUST UNDERSTOOD WHO DORIAN IS. MY FACE LOOKS OLDER IN THE IMAGES OF PROFESSOR CURTIS THAT ARE FLOATING AROUND, BUT IN REAL LIFE, I'M STILL YOUNG.
WHAT WAS THE OURÖBÖRÖS DOING HERE WITH YOU?
A SIMPLE SUPERVISOR, LIKE A WAR REPORTER... YOU HAVE YOUR OWN, DON'T YOU?
ARE YOU NOT AWARE THAT OURÖBÖRÖS USED HYBRIDIZATION AS A WEAPON OF DESTRUCTION IN THE SECOND STELLAR WAR? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ON A DEAD EARTH? BECAUSE THEY'RE GOING TO PILLAGE EVERYTHING. YOU KNOW THEY WILL!
ONE VERSION OF HUMANITY WILL DIE, ANOTHER WILL BE BORN.
THEY OFFERED YOU IMMORTALITY. THE ULTIMATE TRANSHUMANIST ILLUSION. YOU'RE NOT NAIVE OR CRAZY, DORIAN, YOU'RE JUST A POOR SOUL WHO'S CAPABLE OF ANNIHILATING HIS ENTIRE SPECIES TO SATISFY HIS FANTASY OF ETERNAL YOUTH... YOU'RE A SAD CLICHE.
GENTLEMEN, FORGIVE ME. THERE'S AN EMERGENCY IN THE MEDICAL UNIT!
SÄTIE... I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH LIZ HAMILTON. THE BULLET HAS CAUSED ACUTE SEPSIS, SHE WON'T MAKE IT WITHOUT A UNIVERSAL TRANSFUSION AND PROSTHETIC LIVER...
BUT SHE LIVES IN AN AUTONOMOUS ZONE THAT REFUSES ANY EXTRATERRESTRIAL TECHNOLOGY... WHAT DO I DO?


THE OURÖBÖRÖS. THE PEOPLE WHO KILLED THEIR PLANET... THE STORY OF A CIVILIZATION WHO REFUSED TO CHANGE COURSE OR LEARN FROM THEIR MISTAKES. PRISONERS OF THEIR OWN HUBRIS...
A STORY OF COLLECTIVE MADNESS THAT LEAD TO TWO GALACTIC CONFLICTS... I'LL LET YOU READ UP ON THE COMPLEX'S HISTORY FOR THE DETAILS.
FOR TWO MILLENIA, THEY'VE SURVIVED ON ASTROCITIES, EXPLORING GALAXIES IN SEARCH OF FOOD AND ENERGY...
THE ENERGY IS NECESSARY FOR JUMPS. THE FOOD, VITAL FOR EXPANSION...
ANY COMPARISON TO HUMANITY WOULD BE CRUEL AT BEST... AND I'M NOT CRUEL, I'M JUST ANGRY...
OUR ARMOR'S EQUAL! BLASTERS WON'T SUFFICE TO SETTLE THIS. DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE YOUR FISTS? MY ANCESTORS FOUGHT MANY HAND-TO-HAND BATTLES WHILE YOURS WERE LOUNGING IN THEIR IMMERSION ROOMS!
THEN THIS WILL BE MY CHANCE TO TURN THEORY INTO PRACTICE, NÄKÄN!
28

THE OURÖBÖRÖS HAVE MADE MARTYRS OF SPECIES FROM DOZENS OF SYSTEMS...

THEY CAN CHANGE THEIR PHYSIOLOGY ACCORDING TO THEIR OPPONENT'S STRENGTHS. THEY HAVE THE DEXTERITY OF A WILDCAT AND AN ABILITY TO ADAPT TO THEIR ENVIRONMENT THAT RIVALS SAURIANS.

BUT THIS ONE IS STILL NO MATCH FOR A HUNTER FROM THE THOUSAND YEAR OLD KÄNÄLÄ CLAN, WHO CAN SMELL THE FUR OF ADULT SWORDSMEN BEFORE KILLING THEM...

AFTER A LIFETIME SPENT IN AN ARTIFICIAL ATMOSPHERE THE LIVER IS A RATHER FRAGILE ORGAN.

IT'S OVER.

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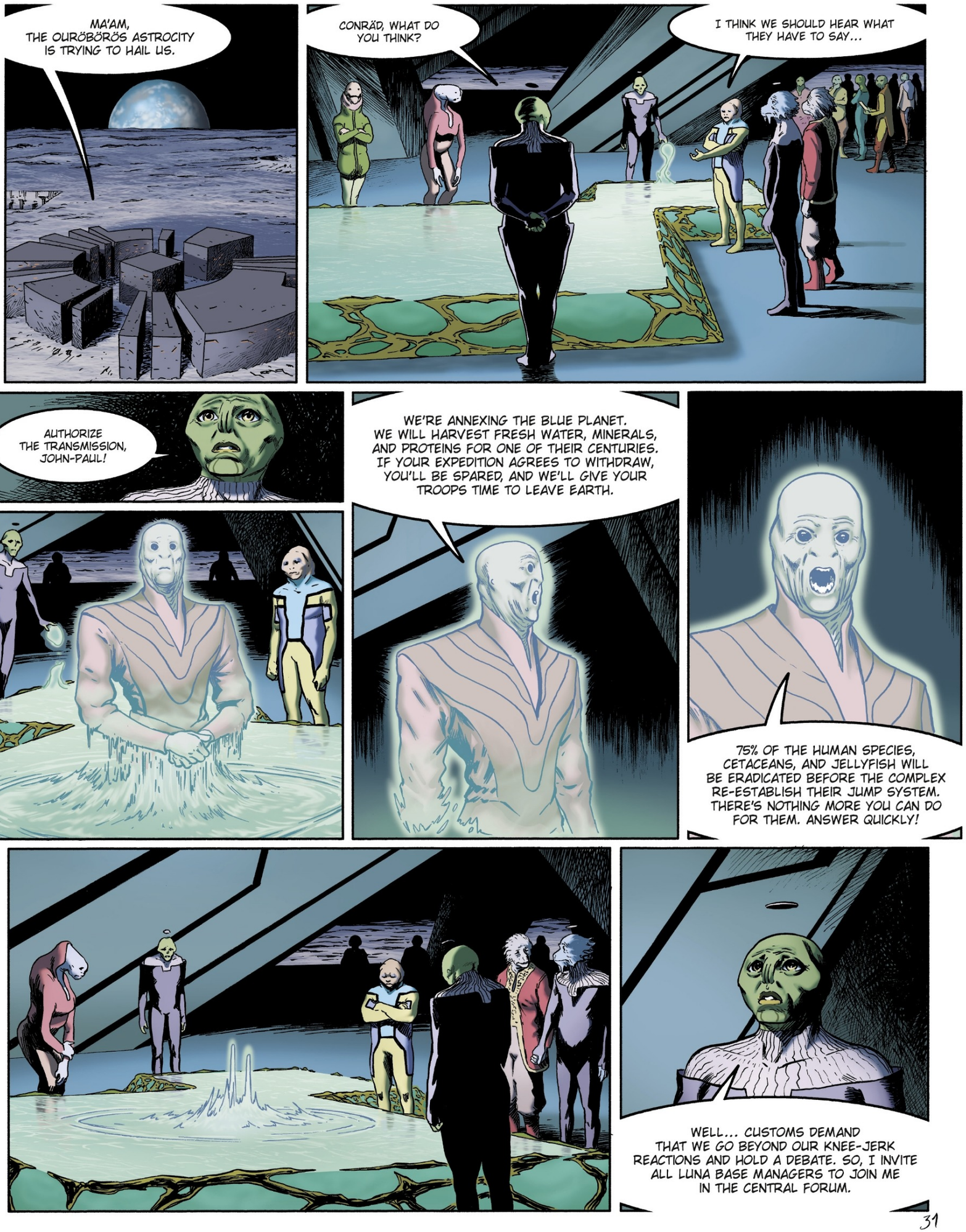
CHIEF ALLEN, THE NÄKÄN CAPTURED THE OURÖBÖRÖS!
TRANSFER HIM TO MY SHIP, BAY 3, UNDER MAXIMUM SECURITY MEASURES.
I REGISTERED HIM, BUT HOW SHOULD I CLASSIFY HIM?
PRISONER OF WAR.
I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU...

30


MA'AM, THE OURÖBÖRÖS ASTROCITY IS TRYING TO HAIL US.
CONRÄD, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I THINK WE SHOULD HEAR WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY...
AUTHORIZE THE TRANSMISSION, JOHN-PAUL!
WE'RE ANNEXING THE BLUE PLANET. WE WILL HARVEST FRESH WATER, MINERALS, AND PROTEINS FOR ONE OF THEIR CENTURIES. IF YOUR EXPEDITION AGREES TO WITHDRAW, YOU'LL BE SPARED, AND WE'LL GIVE YOUR TROOPS TIME TO LEAVE EARTH.
75% OF THE HUMAN SPECIES, CETACEANS, AND JELLYFISH WILL BE ERADICATED BEFORE THE COMPLEX RE-ESTABLISH THEIR JUMP SYSTEM. THERE'S NOTHING MORE YOU CAN DO FOR THEM. ANSWER QUICKLY!
WELL... CUSTOMS DEMAND THAT WE GO BEYOND OUR KNEE-JERK REACTIONS AND HOLD A DEBATE. SO, I INVITE ALL LUNA BASE MANAGERS TO JOIN ME IN THE CENTRAL FORUM.

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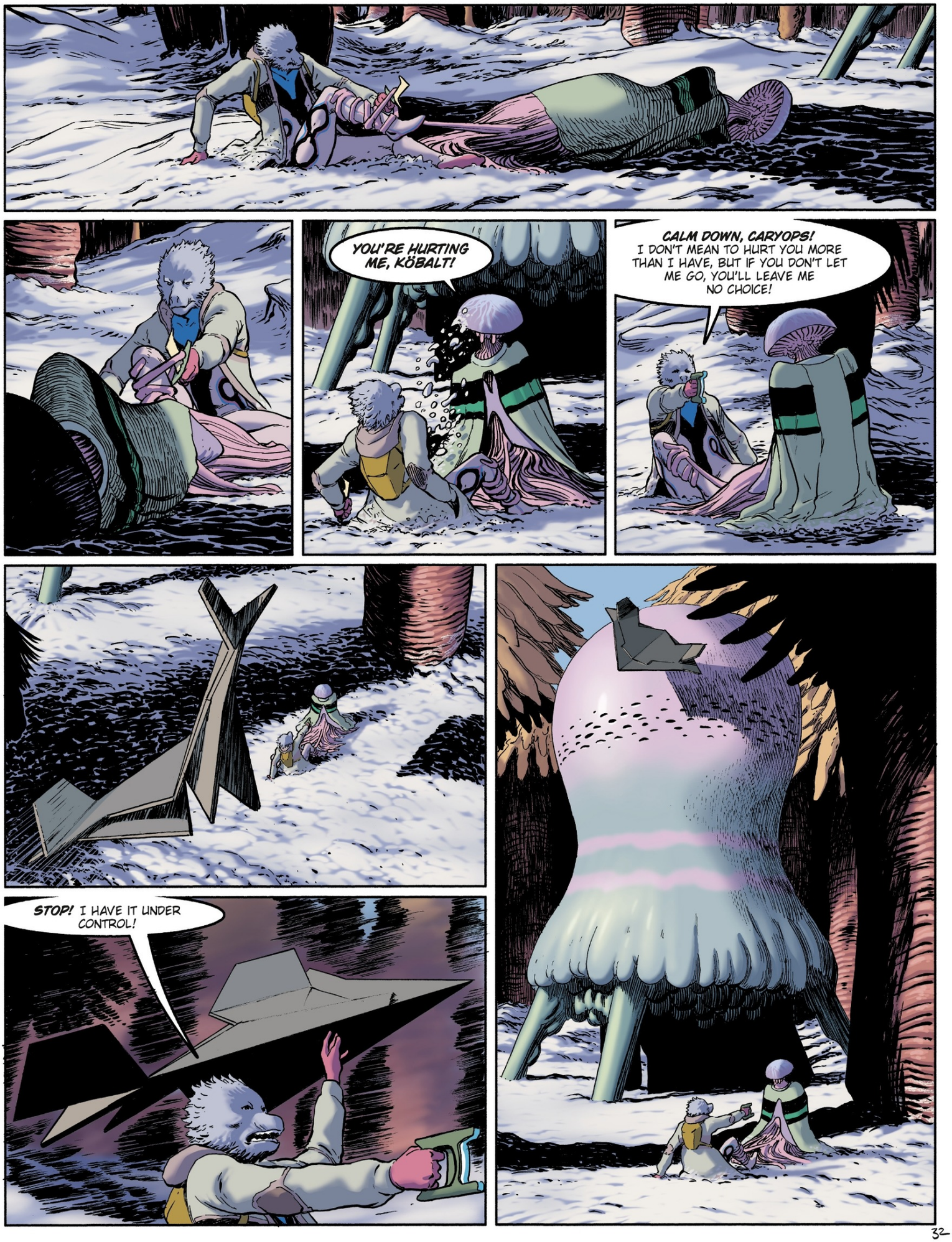
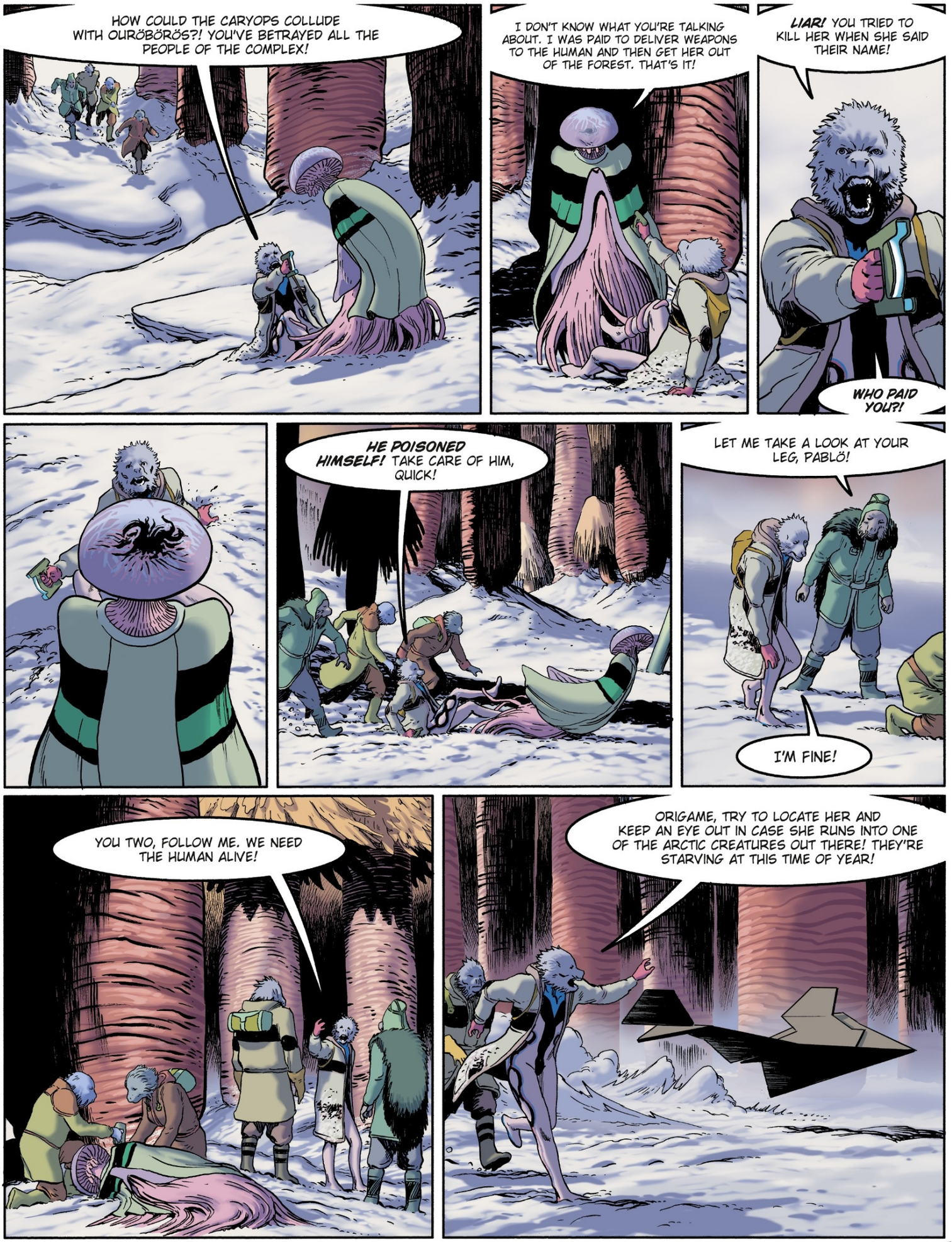
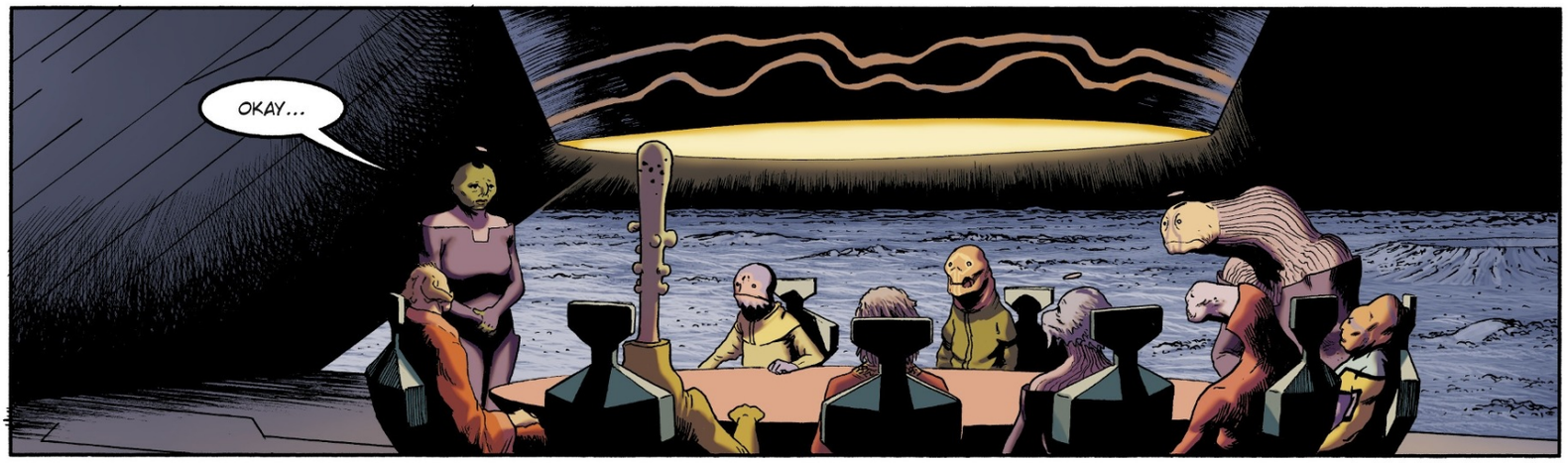
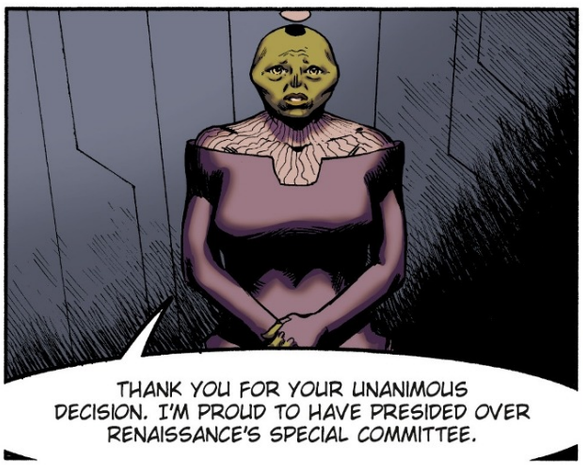
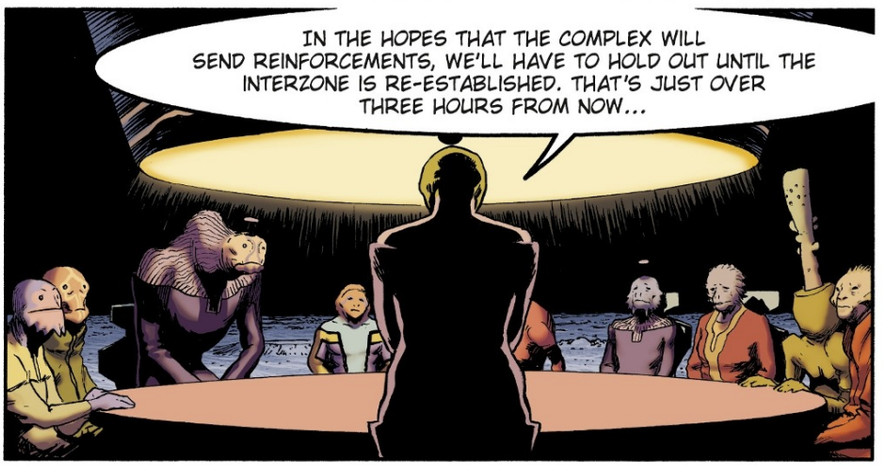

YOU'RE HURTING ME, KÖBALT!
CALM DOWN, CARYOPS! I DON'T MEAN TO HURT YOU MORE THAN I HAVE, BUT IF YOU DON'T LET ME GO, YOU'LL LEAVE ME NO CHOICE!
STOP! I HAVE IT UNDER CONTROL!
32


HOW COULD THE CARYOPS COLLUDE WITH OURÖBÖRÖS?! YOU'VE BETRAYED ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE COMPLEX!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. I WAS PAID TO DELIVER WEAPONS TO THE HUMAN AND THEN GET HER OUT OF THE FOREST. THAT'S IT!
LIAR! YOU TRIED TO KILL HER WHEN SHE SAID THEIR NAME!
WHO PAID YOU?!
HE POISONED HIMSELF! TAKE CARE OF HIM, QUICK!
LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR LEG, PABLÖ!
I'M FINE!
YOU TWO, FOLLOW ME. WE NEED THE HUMAN ALIVE!
ORIGAME, TRY TO LOCATE HER AND KEEP AN EYE OUT IN CASE SHE RUNS INTO ONE OF THE ARCTIC CREATURES OUT THERE! THEY'RE STARVING AT THIS TIME OF YEAR!


OKAY...

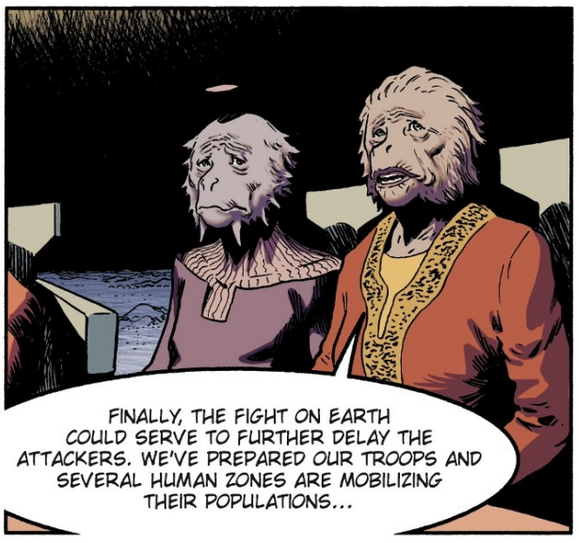

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNANIMOUS DECISION. I'M PROUD TO HAVE PRESIDED OVER RENAISSANCE'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

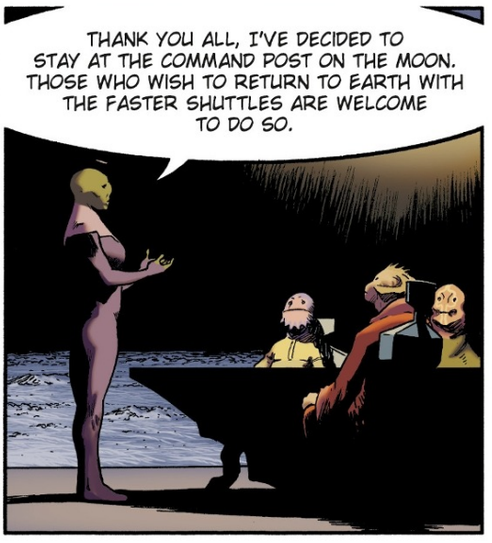

IN THE HOPES THAT THE COMPLEX WILL SEND REINFORCEMENTS, WE'LL HAVE TO HOLD OUT UNTIL THE INTERZONE IS RE-ESTABLISHED. THAT'S JUST OVER THREE HOURS FROM NOW...

CONRAD, I THINK THE ORIGAMES HAVE ANOTHER OPTION FOR US...

YES MA'AM, THEY'RE SAYING THEY HAVE ENOUGH MANEUVERABILITY TO KEEP THE OURÖBÖRÖS FIGHTERS AT BAY FOR A WHILE. THEY'VE VOLUNTEERED TO BE ON THE FRONTLINES OF OUR DEFENSE.

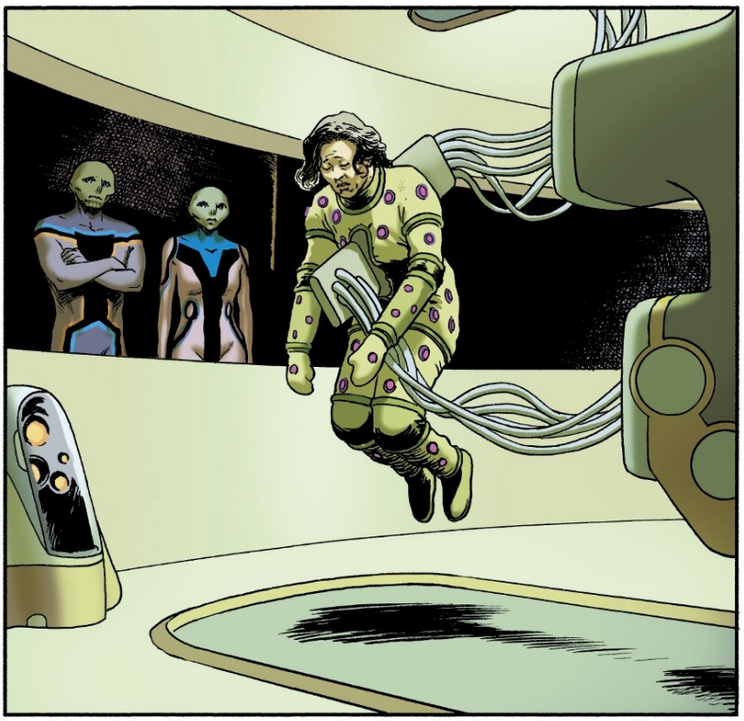
THEN, THE CARRIERS WILL SACRIFICE THEMSELVES IN AN ATTEMPT TO DAMAGE THE ASTROCITY'S GENERATORS AND SLOW THE FREQUENCY OF THEIR JUMPS ONTO EARTH'S SURFACE.

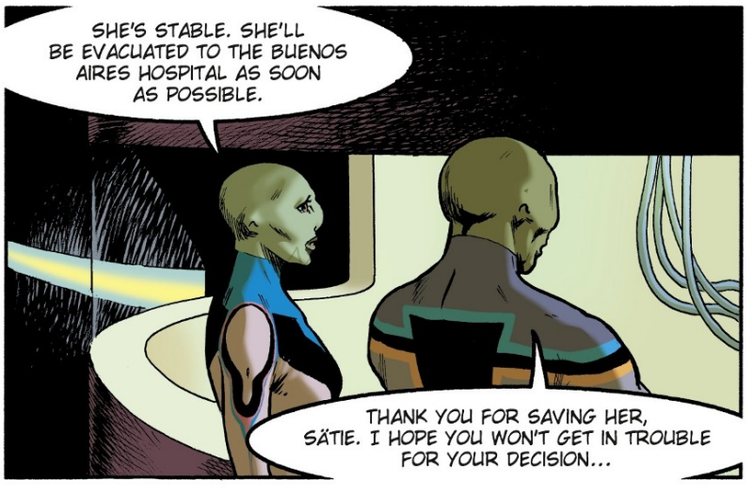

FINALLY, THE FIGHT ON EARTH COULD SERVE TO FURTHER DELAY THE ATTACKERS. WE'VE PREPARED OUR TROOPS AND SEVERAL HUMAN ZONES ARE MOBILIZING THEIR POPULATIONS...


THANK YOU ALL, I'VE DECIDED TO STAY AT THE COMMAND POST ON THE MOON. THOSE WHO WISH TO RETURN TO EARTH WITH THE FASTER SHUTTLES ARE WELCOME TO DO SO.

RENAISSANCE WAS IMPERFECT AND QUESTIONABLE IN A NUMBER OF WAYS. LET'S TRY TO DIE WITH DIGNITY ALONGSIDE OUR DEAR HUMANS.

34




SHE'S STABLE. SHE'LL BE EVACUATED TO THE BUENOS AIRES HOSPITAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THANK YOU FOR SAVING HER, SÄTIE. I HOPE YOU WON'T GET IN TROUBLE FOR YOUR DECISION...

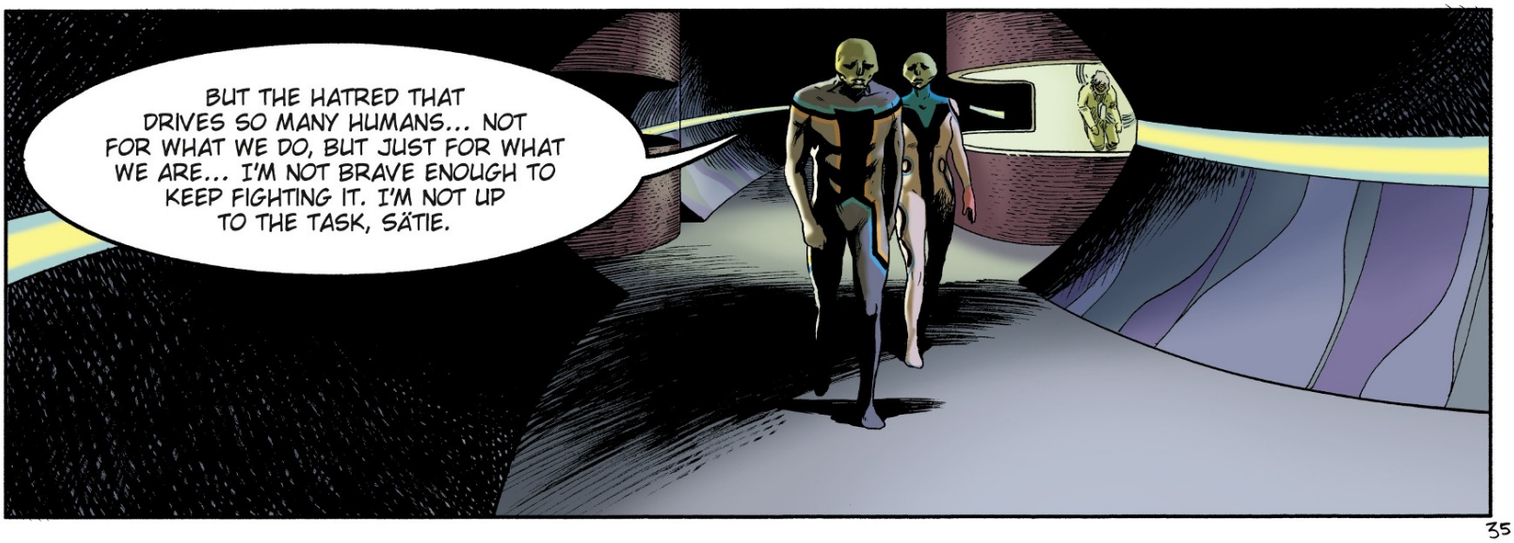
DO YOU REMEMBER ECÖ, THE SCHOLAR WHO OFFICIATED OUR WEDDING IN THE HANGING GARDENS? ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER WE COULD HELP HUMANS WITHOUT SUBJUGATING THEM, HIS ANSWER WAS THAT SOMETIMES WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO.

LUNA BASE WASN'T TRYING TO LIE TO US. WE HAVE LITTLE CHANCE OF GETTING OUT OF THIS. YOU, LIZ, ME, AND EVEN OUR LITTLE SÄRÄ...

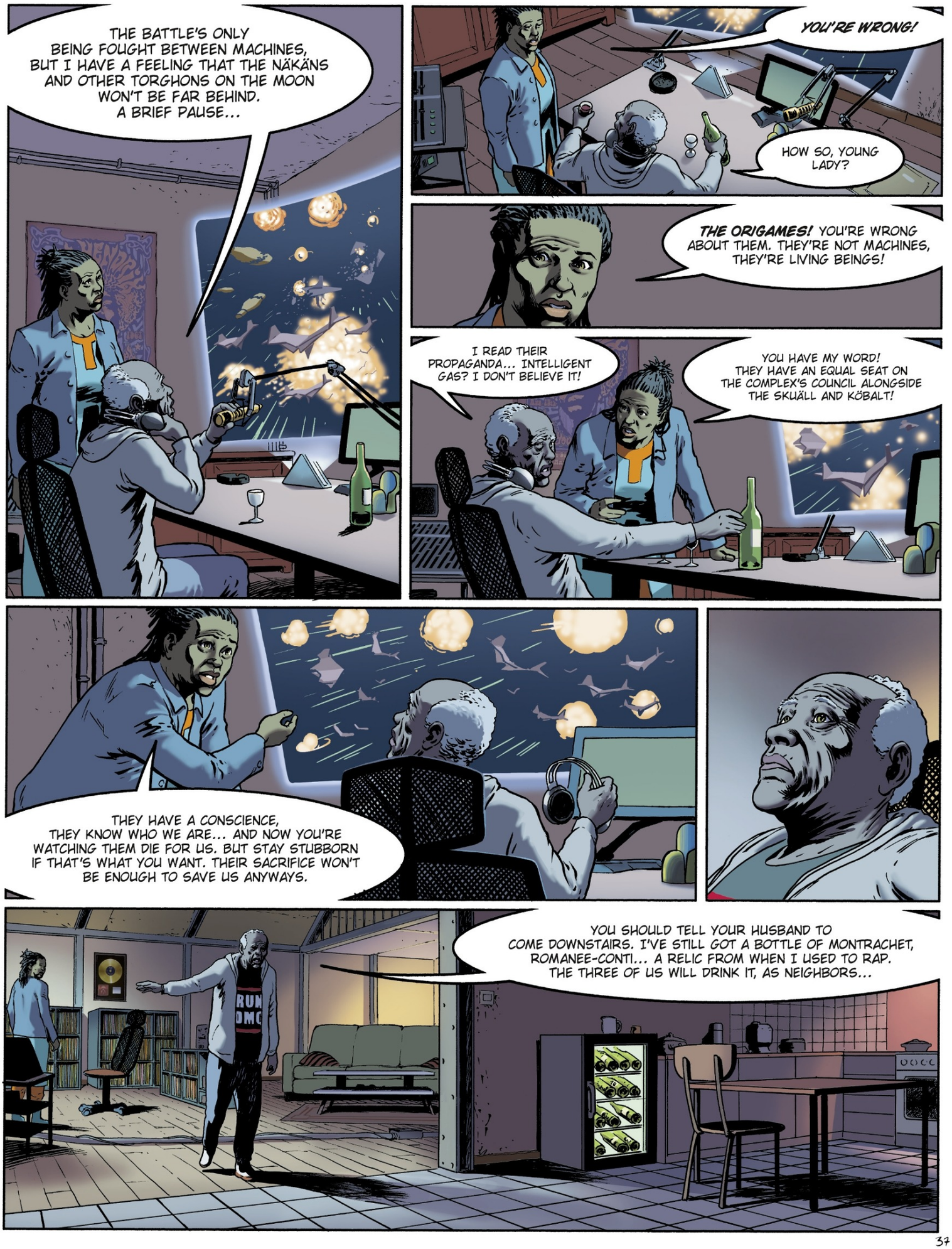
IT'S TOO LATE TO TRY AND RESOLVE OUR DISAGREEMENTS, SÄTIE, BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT I DON'T WANT TO LIVE HERE ANYMORE. OUR LIVES HAVE SIMPLY TAKEN DIFFERENT PATHS. STAYING TOGETHER WOULD DESTROY US BOTH...

DID THE EARTHLINGS WHO HELD YOU HURT YOU THAT BADLY?

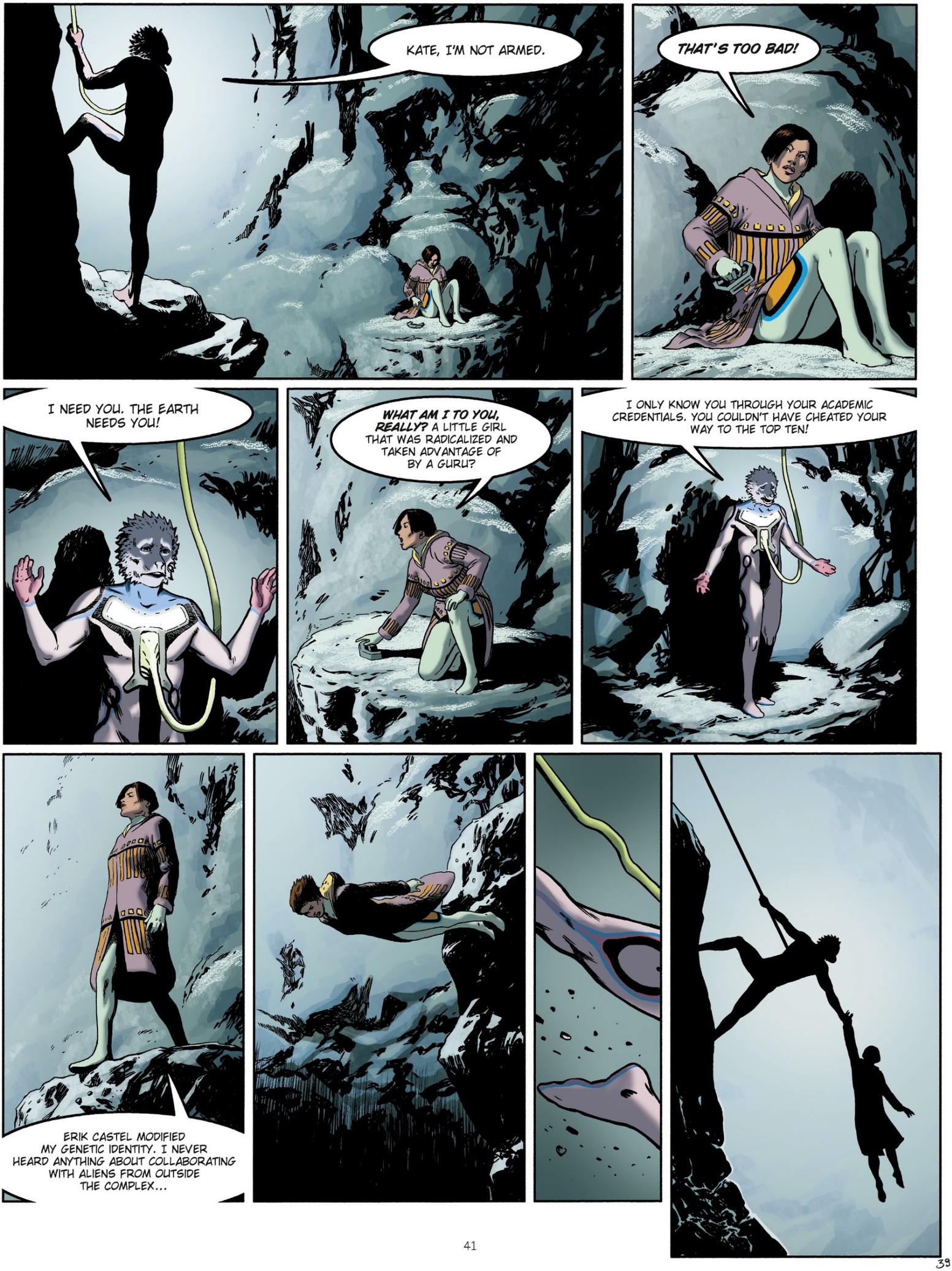
THE PHYSICAL PAIN IS ALREADY BEHIND ME. THE INSULTS DON'T MATTER...


BUT THE HATRED THAT DRIVES SO MANY HUMANS... NOT FOR WHAT WE DO, BUT JUST FOR WHAT WE ARE... I'M NOT BRAVE ENOUGH TO KEEP FIGHTING IT. I'M NOT UP TO THE TASK, SÄTIE.

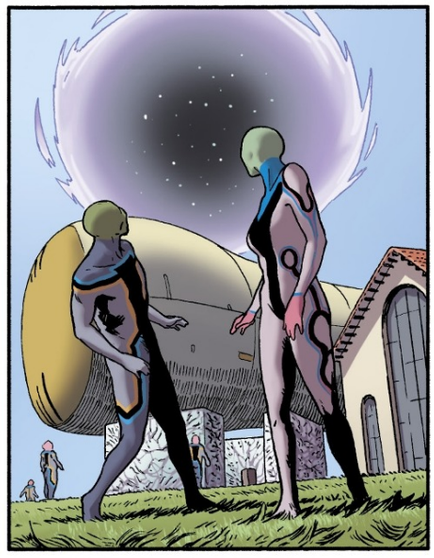
OUR OPTIONS FOR AN ALL-OUT ATTACK. A COMBINATION OF CARRIERS LIMITED TO FOUR MACHINES.
?!
AN UNPRECEDENTED BATTLE IS BEING WAGED AROUND THE MOON, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS. ACCORDING TO OUR IMAGES, THE ORIGAME MACHINES ARE GIVING EVERYTHING TO FIGHT THE UNKNOWN FIGHTERS COMING FROM THE ASTEROID!


THE BATTLE'S ONLY BEING FOUGHT BETWEEN MACHINES, BUT I HAVE A FEELING THAT THE NÄKÄNS AND OTHER TORGHONS ON THE MOON WON'T BE FAR BEHIND. A BRIEF PAUSE...
YOU'RE WRONG!
HOW SO, YOUNG LADY?
THE ORIGAMES! YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT THEM. THEY'RE NOT MACHINES, THEY'RE LIVING BEINGS!
I READ THEIR PROPAGANDA... INTELLIGENT GAS? I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
YOU HAVE MY WORD! THEY HAVE AN EQUAL SEAT ON THE COMPLEX'S COUNCIL ALONGSIDE THE SKUÄLL AND KÖBALT!
THEY HAVE A CONSCIENCE, THEY KNOW WHO WE ARE... AND NOW YOU'RE WATCHING THEM DIE FOR US. BUT STAY STUBBORN IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT. THEIR SACRIFICE WON'T BE ENOUGH TO SAVE US ANYWAYS.
YOU SHOULD TELL YOUR HUSBAND TO COME DOWNSTAIRS. I'VE STILL GOT A BOTTLE OF MONTRACHET, ROMANEE-CONTI... A RELIC FROM WHEN I USED TO RAP. THE THREE OF US WILL DRINK IT, AS NEIGHBORS...

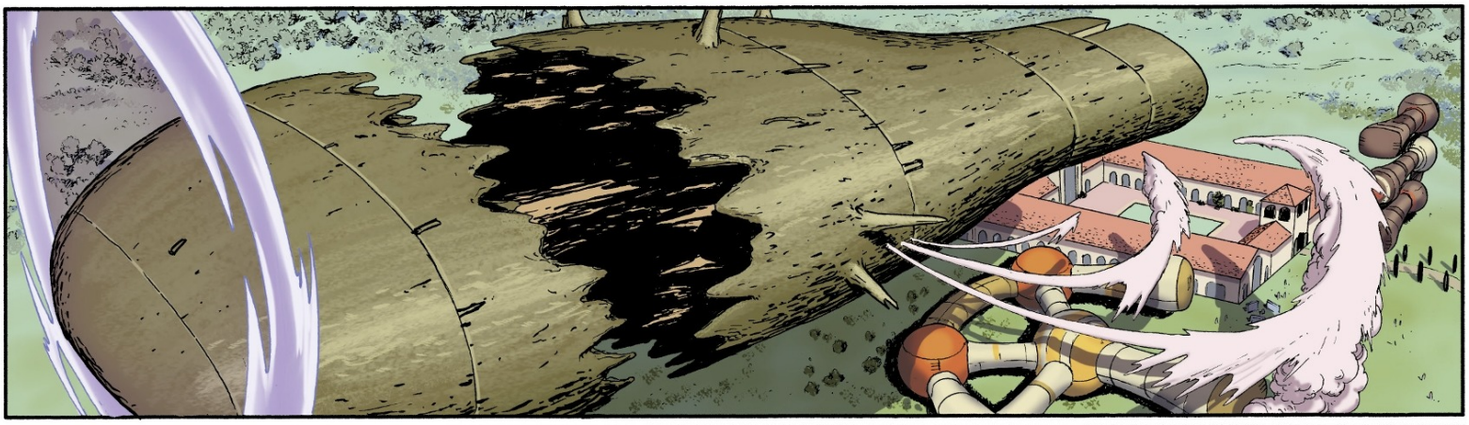
THE ORIGAME IS GOING AROUND THE THICK FOREST TO TRY TO FIND A WAY THROUGH!
SHE'S LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE WARM... SHE'S AT HER LIMIT.
I'M GOING DOWN ALONE!
KATE? IT'S ME, PABLÖ... ARE YOU HURT?

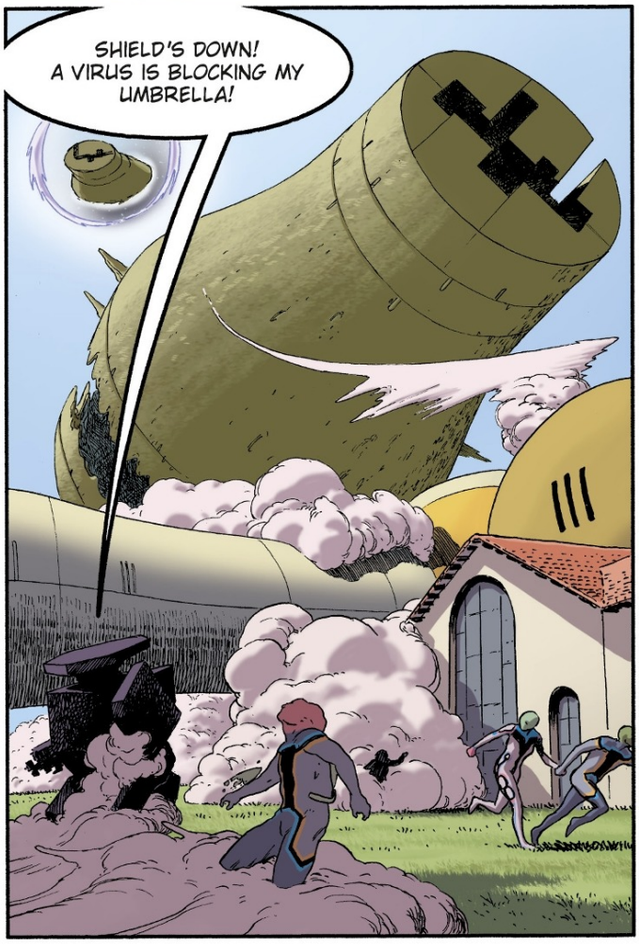

KATE, I'M NOT ARMED.
THAT'S TOO BAD!
I NEED YOU. THE EARTH NEEDS YOU!
WHAT AM I TO YOU, REALLY? A LITTLE GIRL THAT WAS RADICALIZED AND TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF BY A GURU?
I ONLY KNOW YOU THROUGH YOUR ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS. YOU COULDN'T HAVE CHEATED YOUR WAY TO THE TOP TEN!
ERIK CASTEL MODIFIED MY GENETIC IDENTITY. I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT COLLABORATING WITH ALIENS FROM OUTSIDE THE COMPLEX...

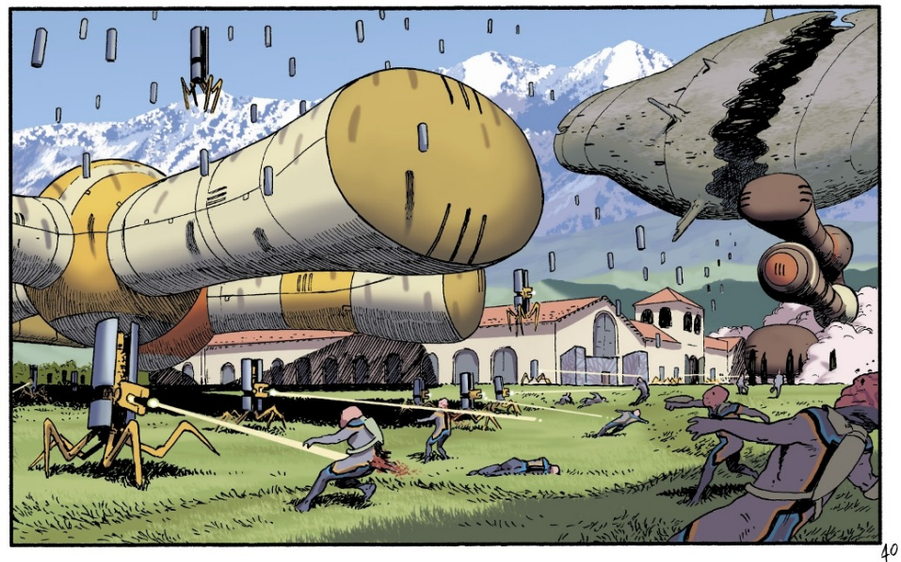
I HAVE TO INTERROGATE THE HYBRIDS, WILL YOU JOIN ME?

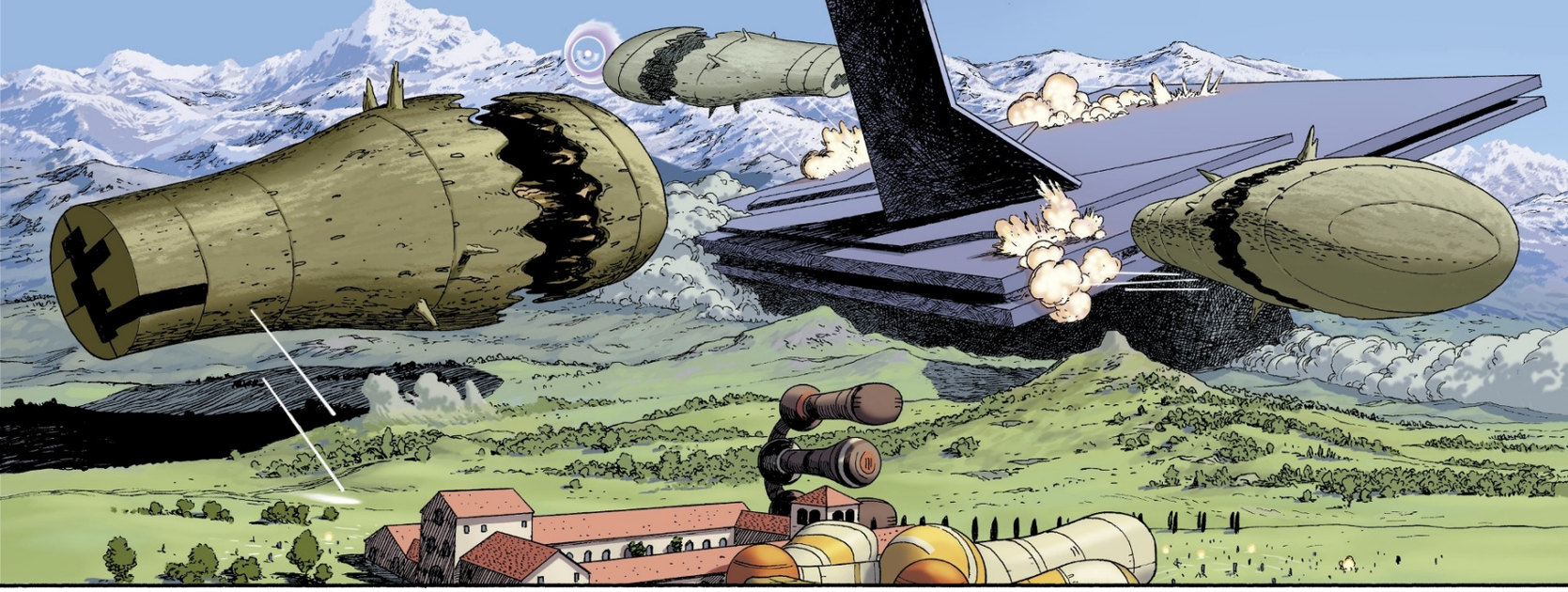


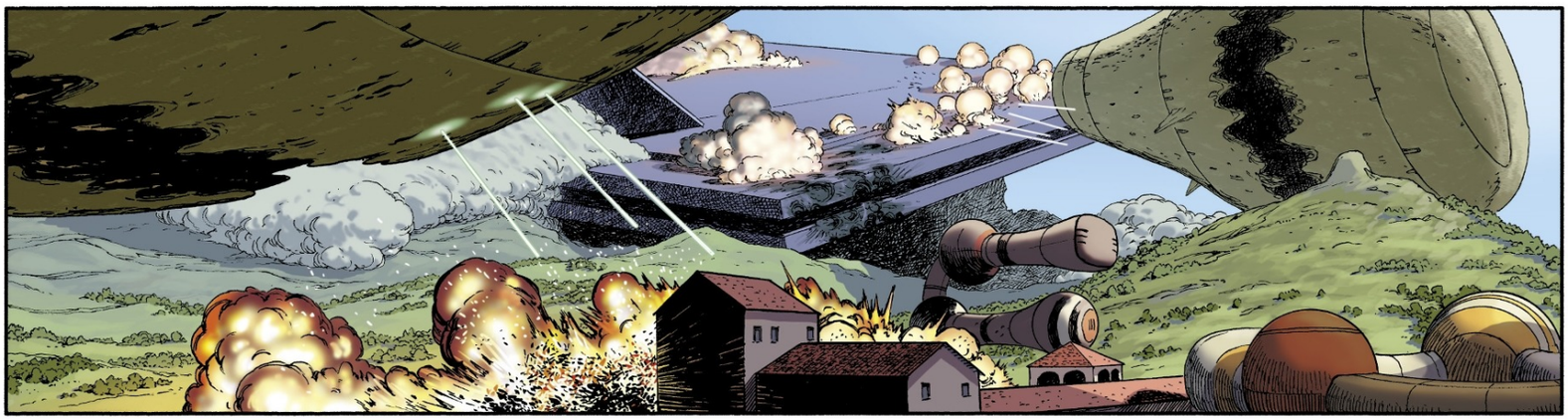
RUN!




SHIELD'S DOWN! A VIRUS IS BLOCKING MY UMBRELLA!

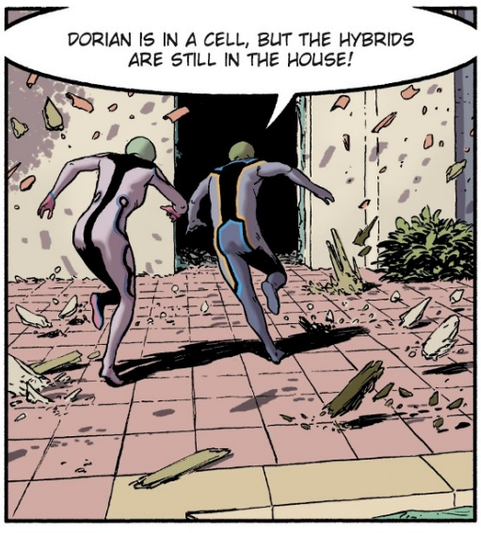






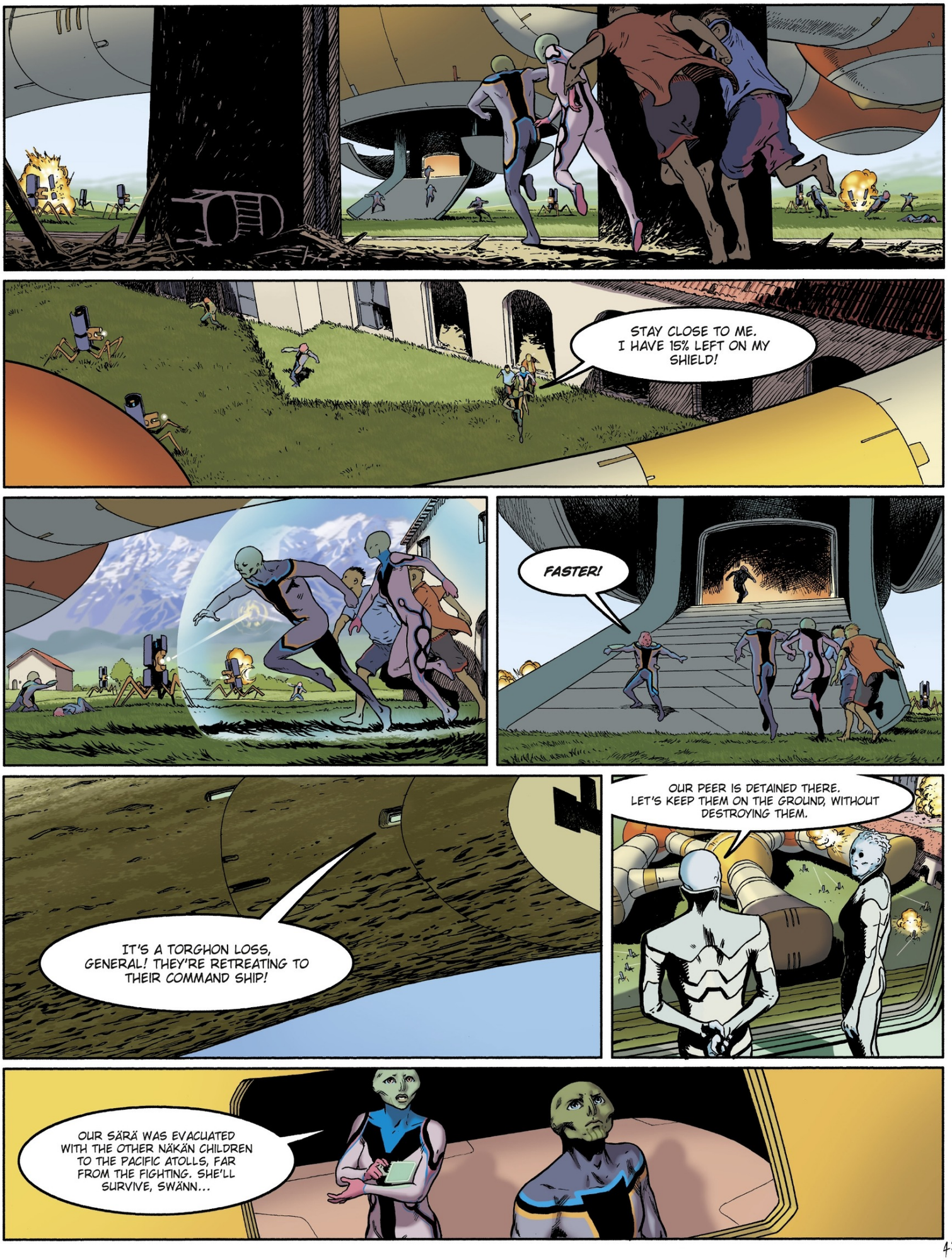
JÄSON!

LET'S PUT HIM IN THE WATER, SÄTIE! IT'S HIS NATURAL HABITANT!


DORIAN IS IN A CELL, BUT THE HYBRIDS ARE STILL IN THE HOUSE!

THE LIVING ROOM, THERE!

41


STAY CLOSE TO ME. I HAVE 15% LEFT ON MY SHIELD!
FASTER!
IT'S A TORGHON LOSS, GENERAL! THEY'RE RETREATING TO THEIR COMMAND SHIP!
OUR PEER IS DETAINED THERE. LET'S KEEP THEM ON THE GROUND, WITHOUT DESTROYING THEM.
OUR SÄRÄ WAS EVACUATED WITH THE OTHER NÄKÄN CHILDREN TO THE PACIFIC ATOLLS, FAR FROM THE FIGHTING. SHE'LL SURVIVE, SWÄNN...

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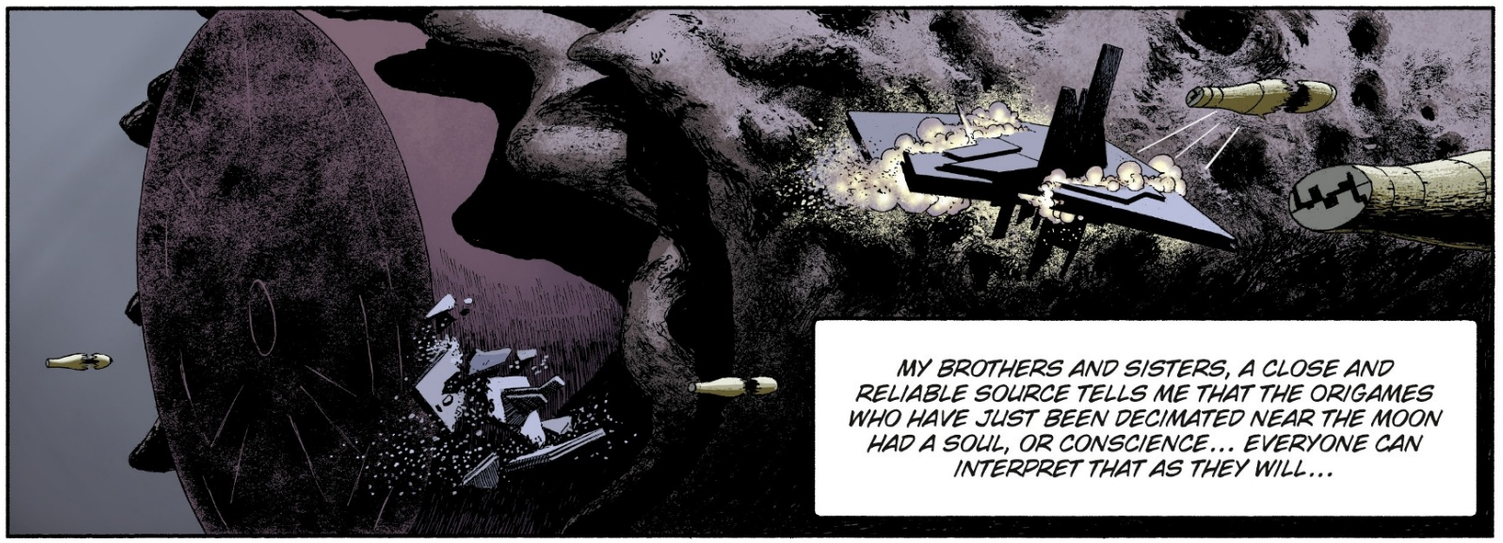
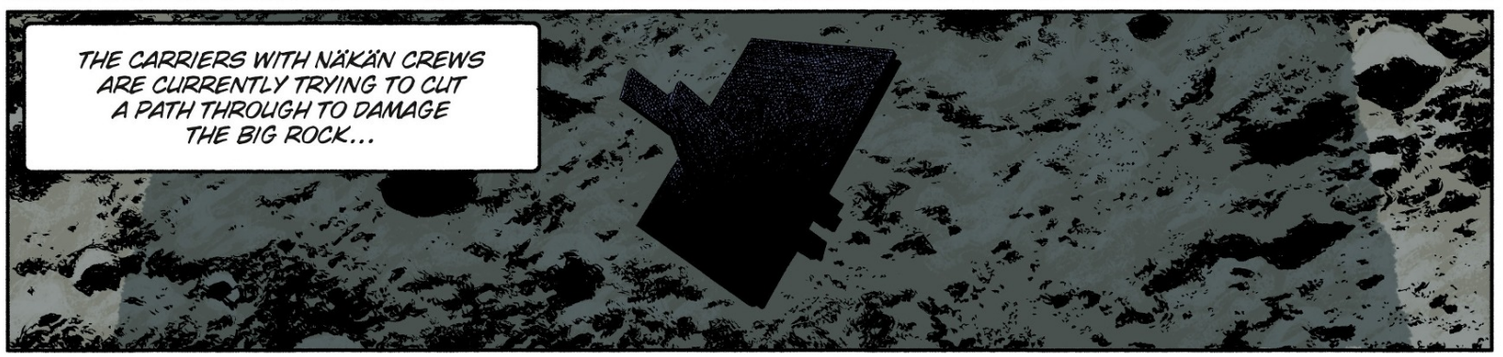
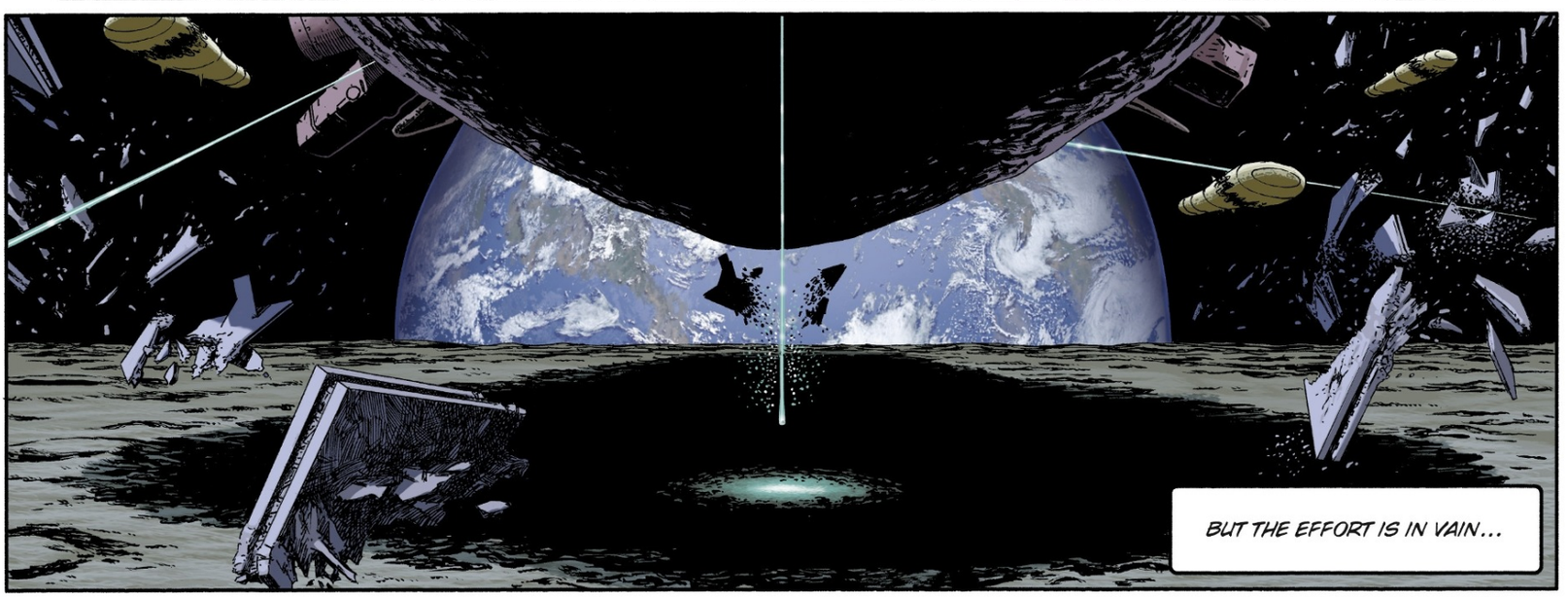

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, A CLOSE AND RELIABLE SOURCE TELLS ME THAT THE ORIGAMES WHO HAVE JUST BEEN DECIMATED NEAR THE MOON HAD A SOUL, OR CONSCIENCE... EVERYONE CAN INTERPRET THAT AS THEY WILL...


THE CARRIERS WITH NÄKÄN CREWS ARE CURRENTLY TRYING TO CUT A PATH THROUGH TO DAMAGE THE BIG ROCK...


BUT THE EFFORT IS IN VAIN...

OUR GOOD OLD FM NETWORK IS NOW ANNOUNCING THE ARRIVAL OF HOSTILE SHIPS AROUND THE WORLD. HERE IN PARIS, THE SKY HAS JUST LIT UP WITH AN EVIL GREEN GLOW, HERALDING ARMAGEDDON...

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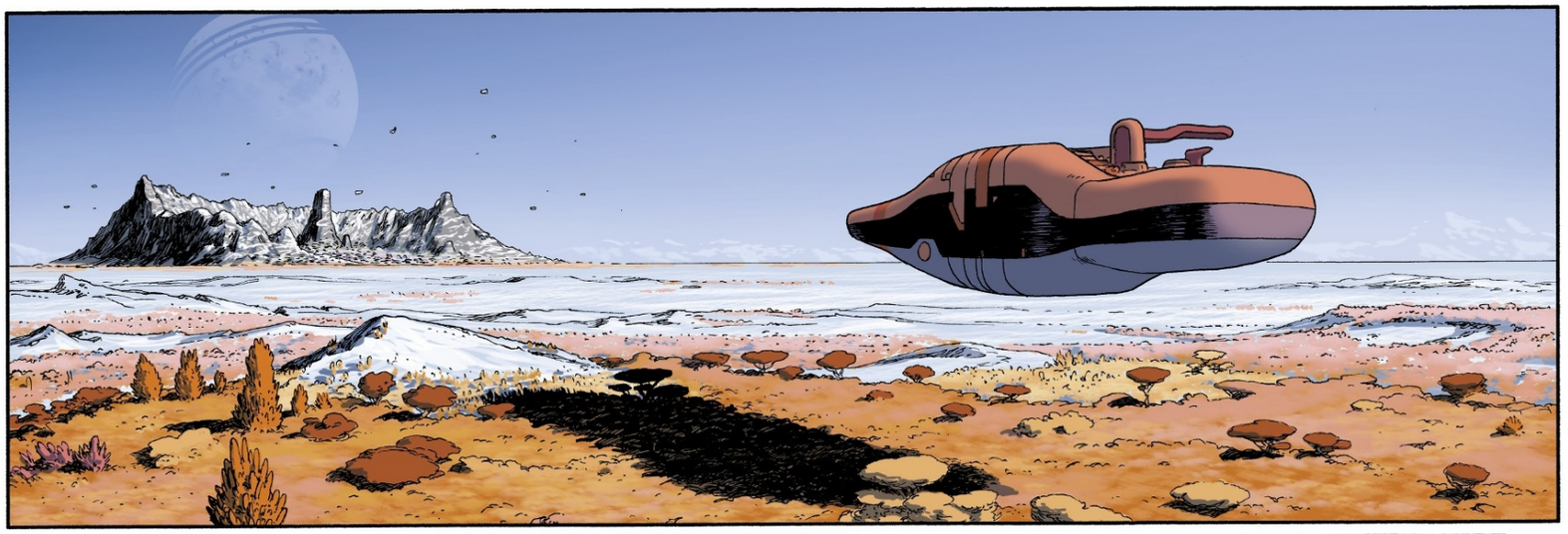
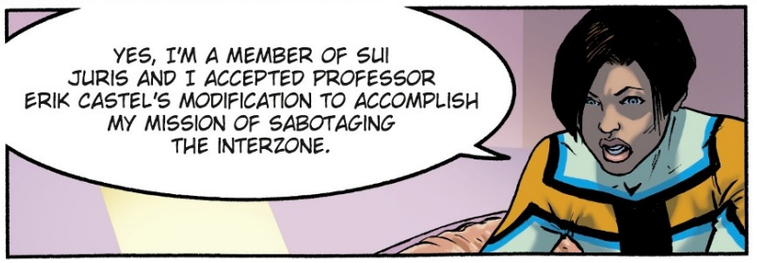
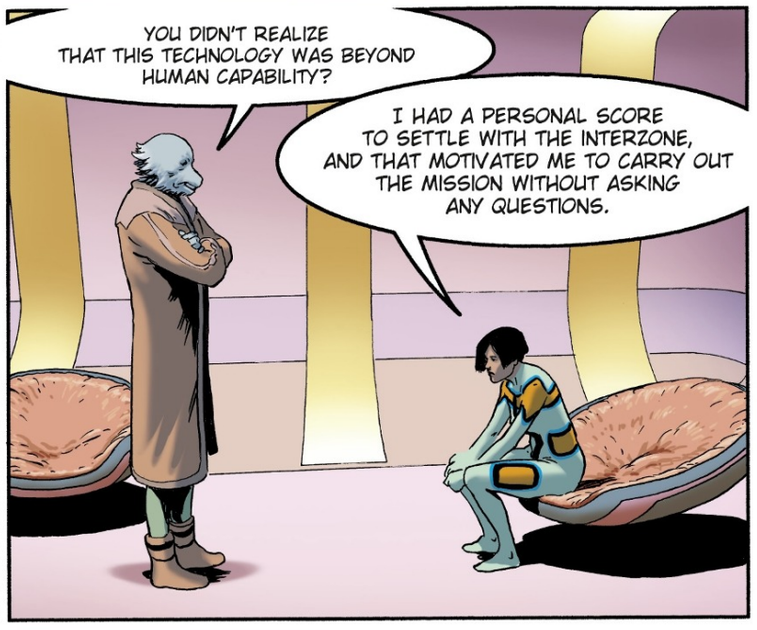


JENNIFER SMITH, YOU FREELY ADMITTED TO CHANGING YOUR DNA IDENTITY. YOUR REAL NAME IS KATE HAMILTON. DO YOU CONFIRM THESE STATEMENTS?

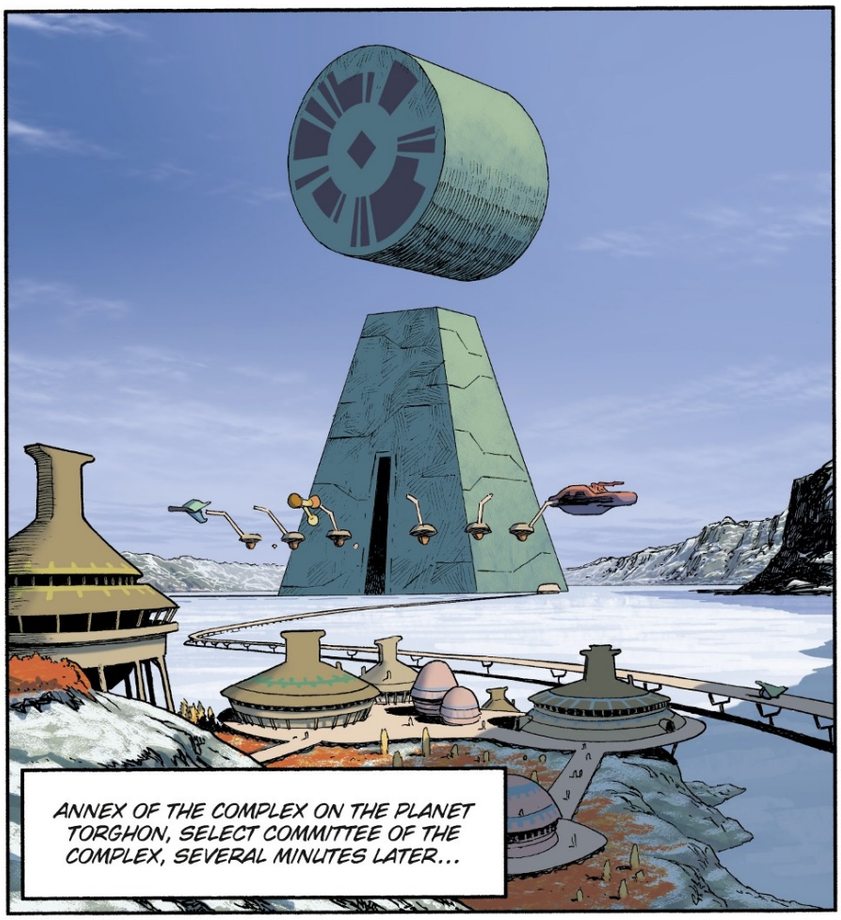

YES, I'M A MEMBER OF SUI JURIS AND I ACCEPTED PROFESSOR ERIK CASTEL'S MODIFICATION TO ACCOMPLISH MY MISSION OF SABOTAGING THE INTERZONE.

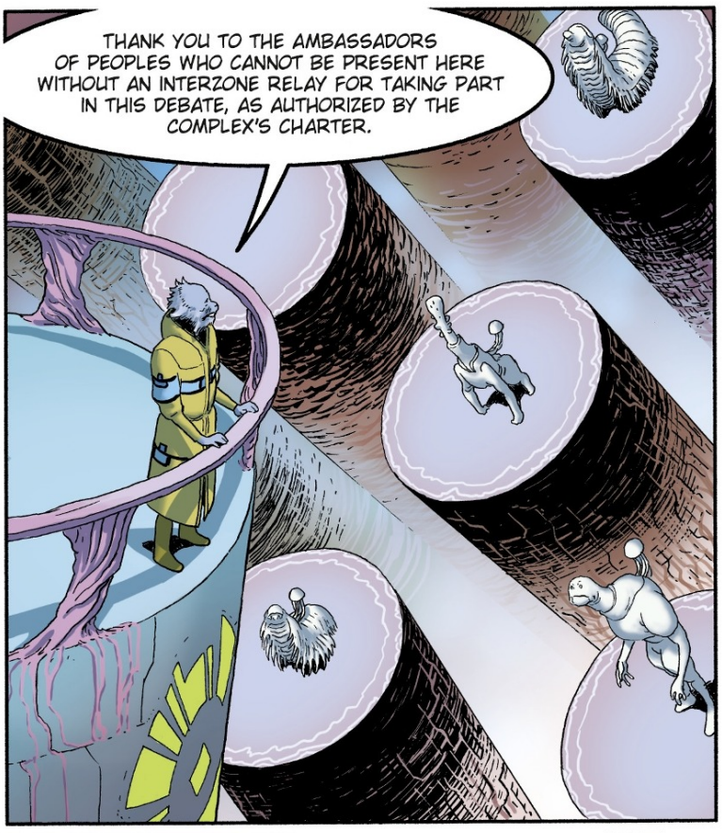

YOU DIDN'T REALIZE THAT THIS TECHNOLOGY WAS BEYOND HUMAN CAPABILITY?
I HAD A PERSONAL SCORE TO SETTLE WITH THE INTERZONE, AND THAT MOTIVATED ME TO CARRY OUT THE MISSION WITHOUT ASKING ANY QUESTIONS.

YOUR FAMILY, WHO DIED IN A JUMP ACCIDENT 20 YEARS AGO...
YES.

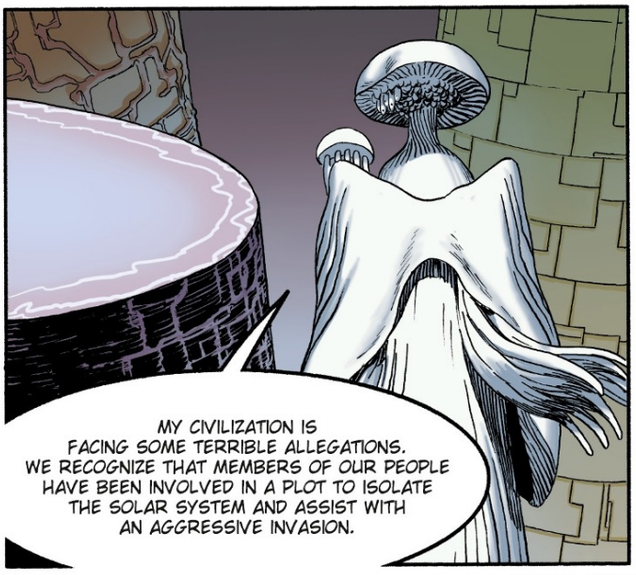
YOU ARE NOW CONSIDERED A BIOLOGICAL WEAPON MANUFACTURED BY OUROBOROS. THIS MEANS YOU ARE NO LONGER CONSIDERED A HUMAN AND WILL ANSWER FOR YOUR ACTIONS BEFORE THE KÖBALT JUSTICE SYSTEM.

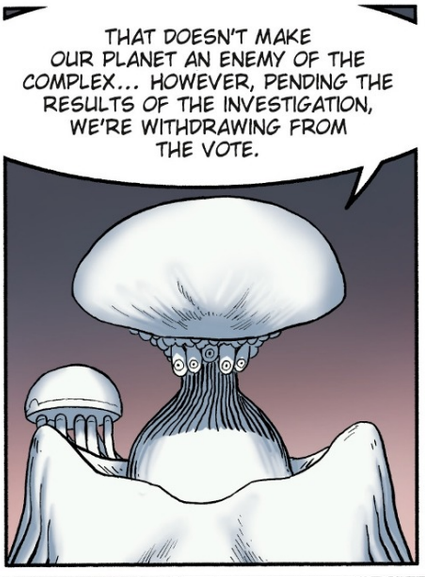
IT ALSO MEANS THAT YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP SAVE YOUR PLANET....
?!

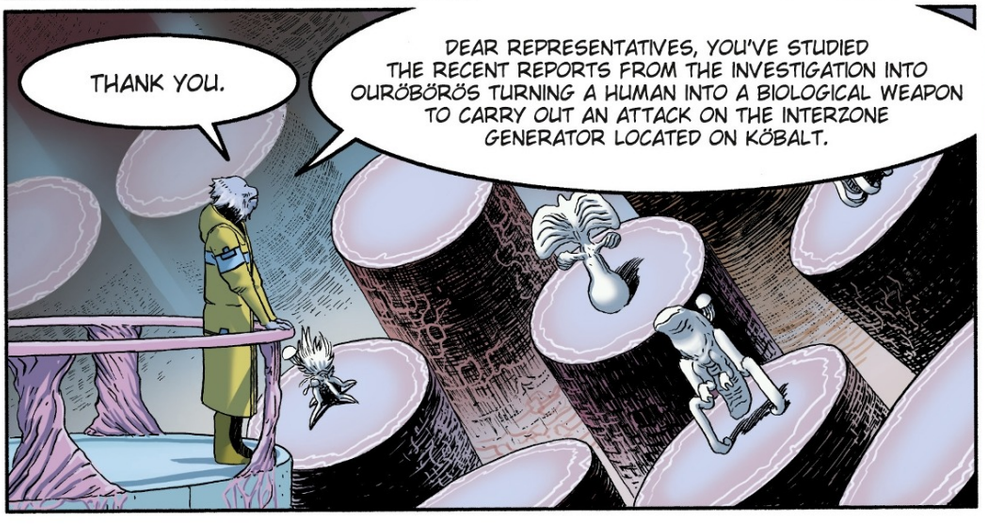

ANNEX OF THE COMPLEX ON THE PLANET TORGHON, SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE COMPLEX, SEVERAL MINUTES LATER...

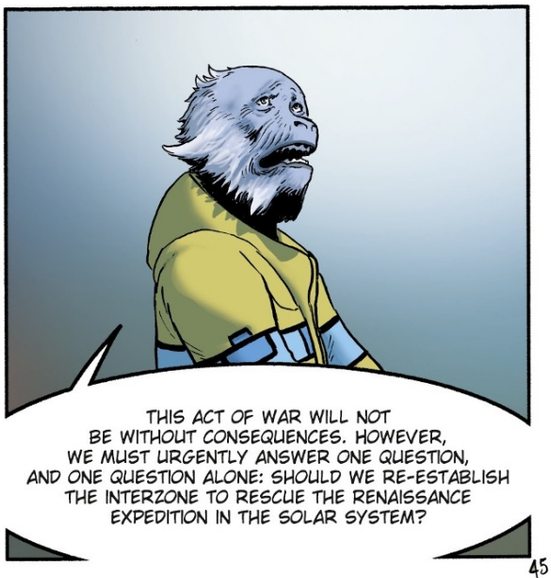

THANK YOU TO THE AMBASSADORS OF PEOPLES WHO CANNOT BE PRESENT HERE WITHOUT AN INTERZONE RELAY FOR TAKING PART IN THIS DEBATE, AS AUTHORIZED BY THE COMPLEX'S CHARTER.

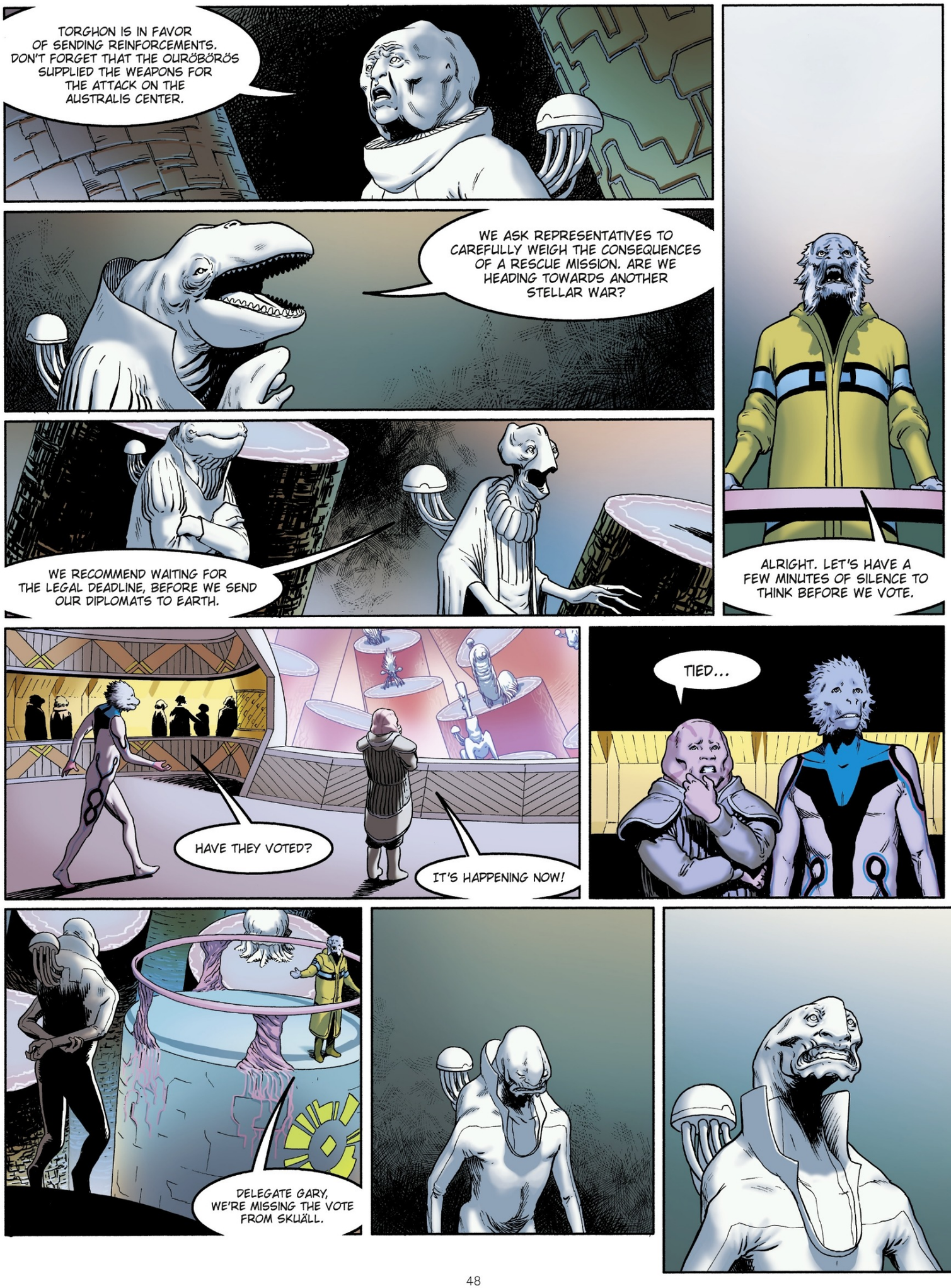
THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM CARYOPS HAS SOMETHING TO SAY TO THE ASSEMBLY.


MY CIVILIZATION IS FACING SOME TERRIBLE ALLEGATIONS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT MEMBERS OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN A PLOT TO ISOLATE THE SOLAR SYSTEM AND ASSIST WITH AN AGGRESSIVE INVASION.

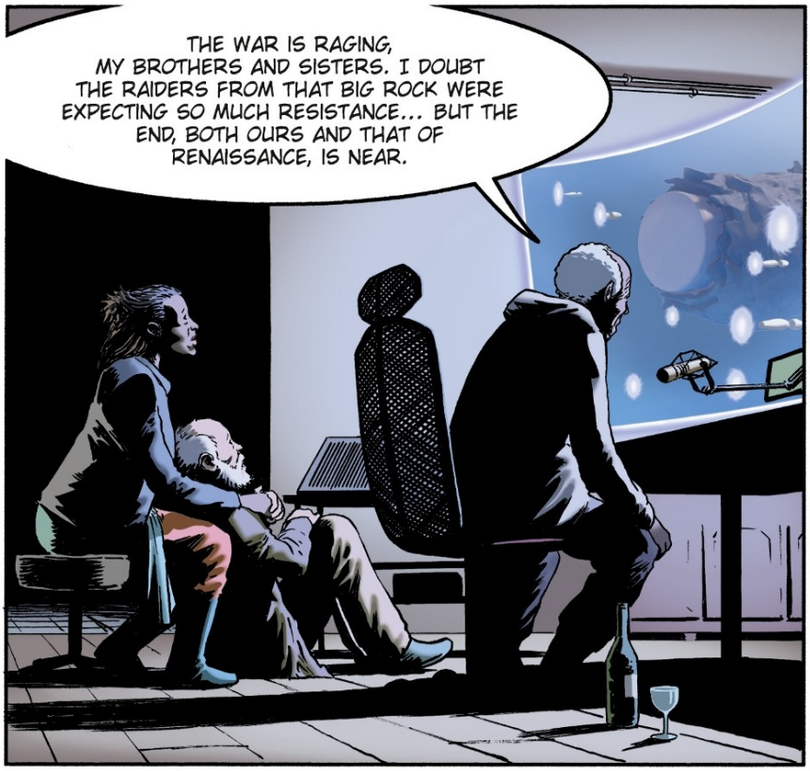

THAT DOESN'T MAKE OUR PLANET AN ENEMY OF THE COMPLEX... HOWEVER, PENDING THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION, WE'RE WITHDRAWING FROM THE VOTE.


THANK YOU.
DEAR REPRESENTATIVES, YOU'VE STUDIED THE RECENT REPORTS FROM THE INVESTIGATION INTO OURÖBÖRÖS TURNING A HUMAN INTO A BIOLOGICAL WEAPON TO CARRY OUT AN ATTACK ON THE INTERZONE GENERATOR LOCATED ON KÖBALT.


THIS ACT OF WAR WILL NOT BE WITHOUT CONSEQUENCES. HOWEVER, WE MUST URGENTLY ANSWER ONE QUESTION, AND ONE QUESTION ALONE: SHOULD WE RE-ESTABLISH THE INTERZONE TO RESCUE THE RENAISSANCE EXPEDITION IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM?


TORGHON IS IN FAVOR OF SENDING REINFORCEMENTS. DON'T FORGET THAT THE OURÖBÖRÖS SUPPLIED THE WEAPONS FOR THE ATTACK ON THE AUSTRALIS CENTER.
WE ASK REPRESENTATIVES TO CAREFULLY WEIGH THE CONSEQUENCES OF A RESCUE MISSION. ARE WE HEADING TOWARDS ANOTHER STELLAR WAR?
WE RECOMMEND WAITING FOR THE LEGAL DEADLINE, BEFORE WE SEND OUR DIPLOMATS TO EARTH.
ALRIGHT. LET'S HAVE A FEW MINUTES OF SILENCE TO THINK BEFORE WE VOTE.
HAVE THEY VOTED?
IT'S HAPPENING NOW!
TIED...
DELEGATE GARY, WE'RE MISSING THE VOTE FROM SKUÄLL.

IN BEIJING...
IN NEW DELHI...
IN JOHANNESBURG...
IN PARIS...


THE WAR IS RAGING, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS. I DOUBT THE RAIDERS FROM THAT BIG ROCK WERE EXPECTING SO MUCH RESISTANCE... BUT THE END, BOTH OURS AND THAT OF RENAISSANCE, IS NEAR.

RADIO PARIS THANKS YOU FOR YOUR LOYALTY AND BIDS YOU GOODBYE...

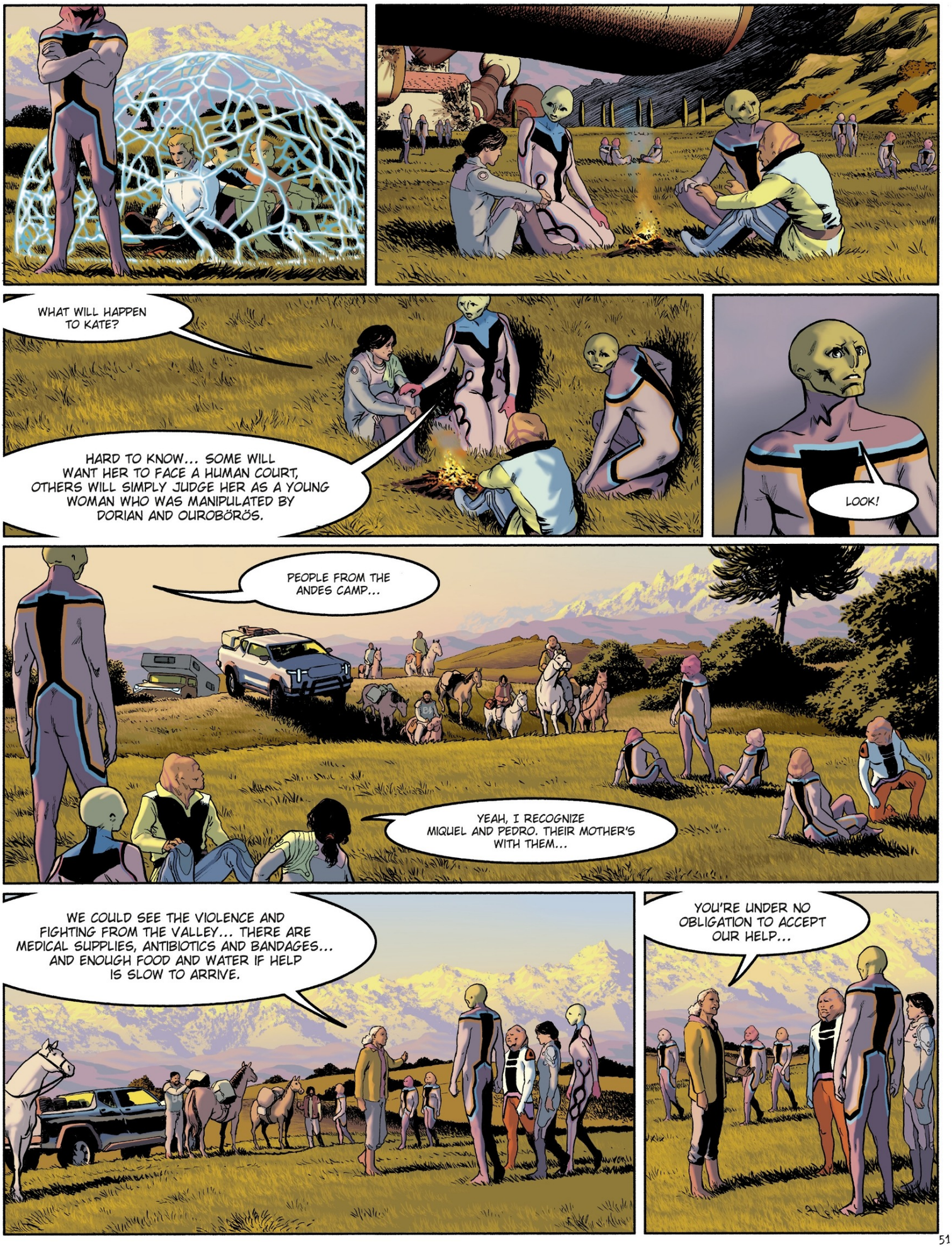
WAIT! WHAT'S THAT?

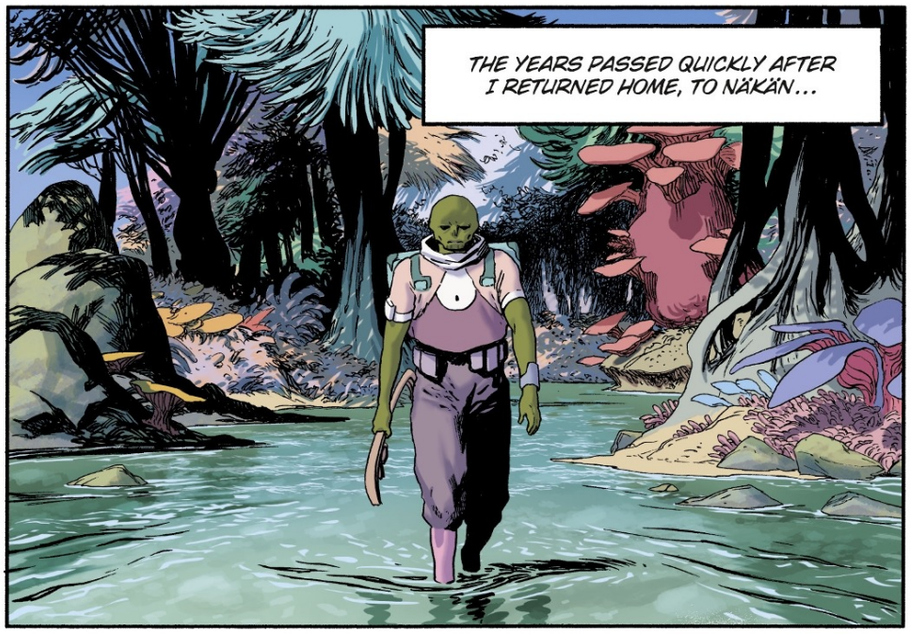
47

HUNDREDS OF JUMPS HAVE JUST BEEN MADE INTO THE SOLAR SYSTEM, ENCIRCLING THE ENEMY!
MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THE COMPLEX TOOK ITS TIME TO GET HERE, BUT, WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THE LOST TIME?

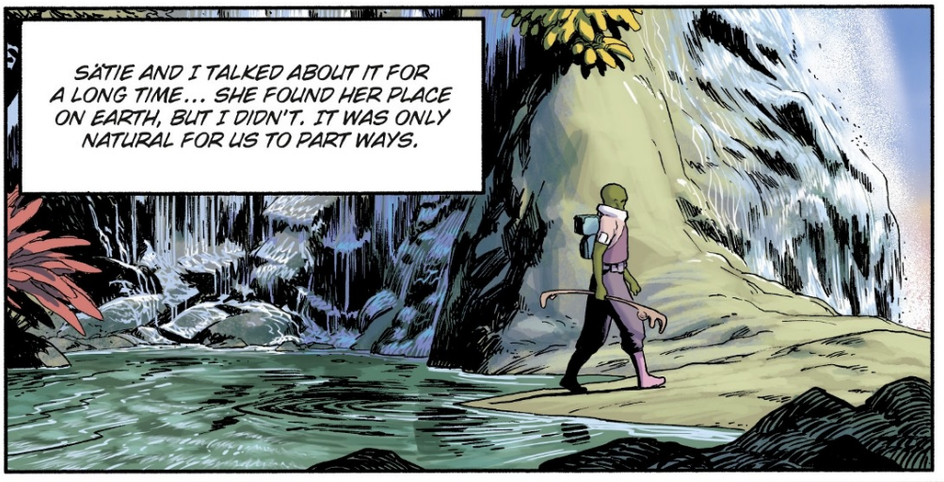
LET'S REMEMBER THESE WORDS FROM AN OLD FRIEND:
AN HOUR IS NOT MERELY AN HOUR, IT IS A VASE FILLED WITH PERFUMES, WITH SOUNDS, WITH PROJECTS, WITH CLIMATES. WHAT WE CALL REALITY IS A RELATION BETWEEN THOSE SENSATIONS AND THOSE MEMORIES WHICH SIMULTANEOUSLY ENCIRCLE US...
MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AS THE BATTLE FOR THE SOLAR SYSTEM DRAWS TO A CLOSE, WE CAN ANNOUNCE THAT THE INVADING SHIPS ARE IN RETREAT, JUMPING AWAY FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD!

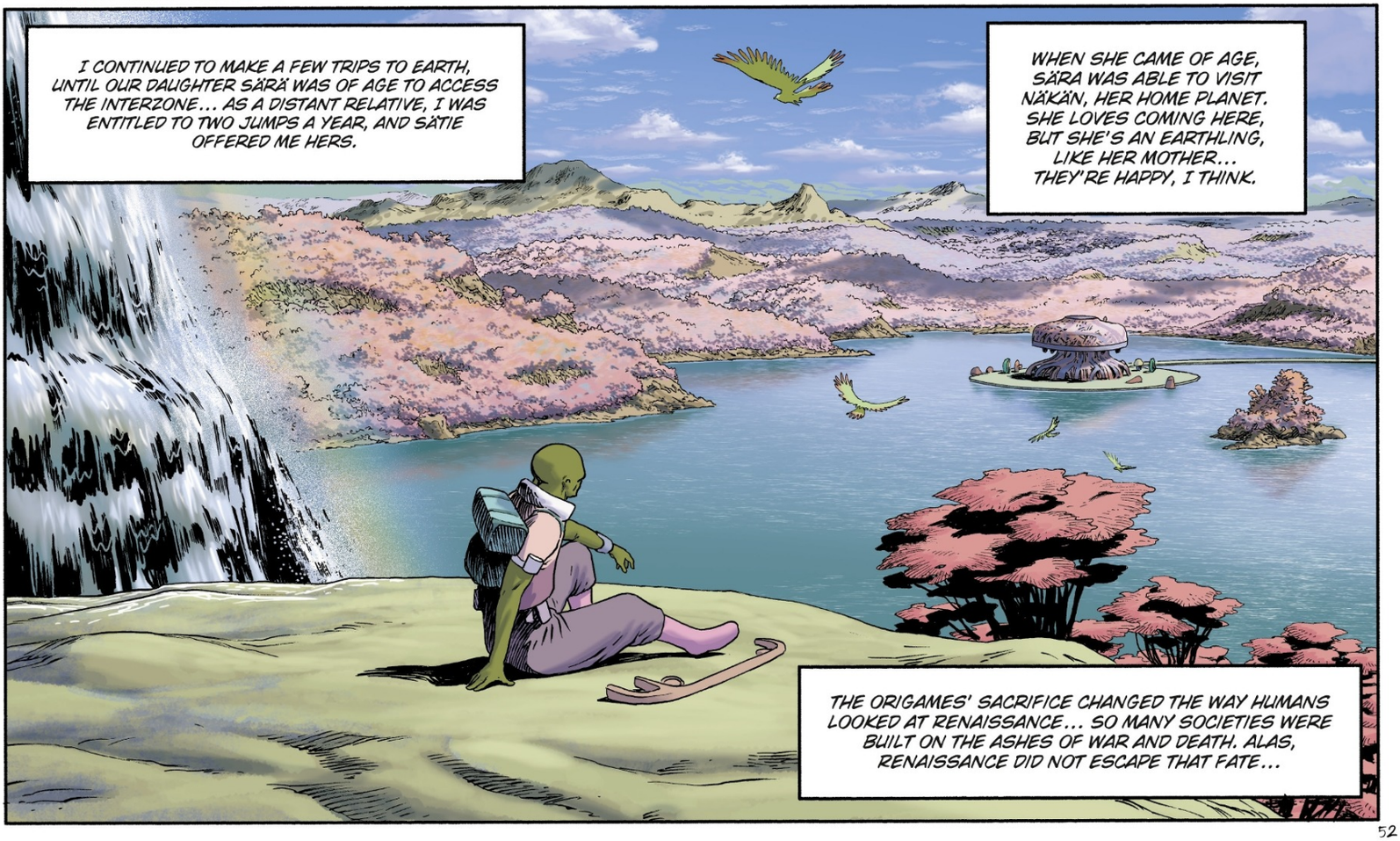
JENNIFER?
I FOUND HER A GREAT LAWYER...


WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO KATE?
HARD TO KNOW... SOME WILL WANT HER TO FACE A HUMAN COURT, OTHERS WILL SIMPLY JUDGE HER AS A YOUNG WOMAN WHO WAS MANIPULATED BY DORIAN AND OUROBÖRÖS.
LOOK!
PEOPLE FROM THE ANDES CAMP...
YEAH, I RECOGNIZE MIQUEL AND PEDRO. THEIR MOTHER'S WITH THEM...
WE COULD SEE THE VIOLENCE AND FIGHTING FROM THE VALLEY... THERE ARE MEDICAL SUPPLIES, ANTIBIOTICS AND BANDAGES... AND ENOUGH FOOD AND WATER IF HELP IS SLOW TO ARRIVE.
YOU'RE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO ACCEPT OUR HELP...


THE YEARS PASSED QUICKLY AFTER I RETURNED HOME, TO NÄKÄN...

JUST AS I WISHED, I QUIT RENAISSANCE SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER THE BATTLE FOR THE SOLAR SYSTEM.


SÄTIE AND I TALKED ABOUT IT FOR A LONG TIME... SHE FOUND HER PLACE ON EARTH, BUT I DIDN'T. IT WAS ONLY NATURAL FOR US TO PART WAYS.


I CONTINUED TO MAKE A FEW TRIPS TO EARTH, UNTIL OUR DAUGHTER SÄRÄ WAS OF AGE TO ACCESS THE INTERZONE... AS A DISTANT RELATIVE, I WAS ENTITLED TO TWO JUMPS A YEAR, AND SÄTIE OFFERED ME HERS.
WHEN SHE CAME OF AGE, SÄRA WAS ABLE TO VISIT NÄKÄN, HER HOME PLANET. SHE LOVES COMING HERE, BUT SHE'S AN EARTHLING, LIKE HER MOTHER... THEY'RE HAPPY, I THINK.
THE ORIGAMES' SACRIFICE CHANGED THE WAY HUMANS LOOKED AT RENAISSANCE... SO MANY SOCIETIES WERE BUILT ON THE ASHES OF WAR AND DEATH. ALAS, RENAISSANCE DID NOT ESCAPE THAT FATE...

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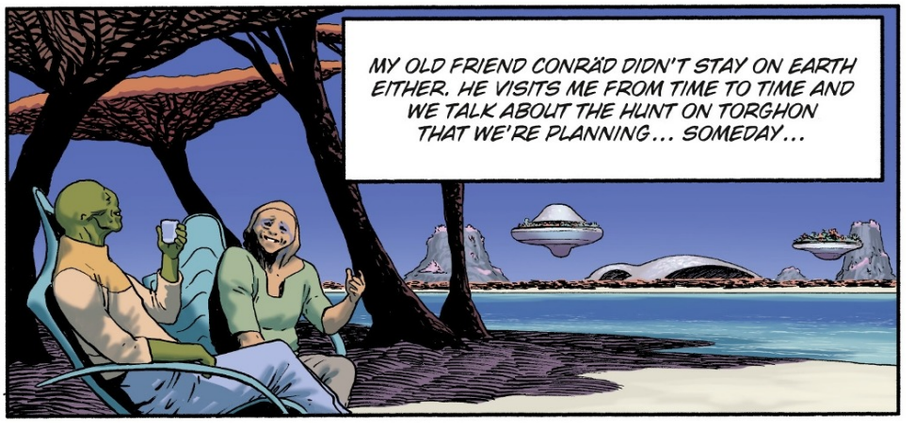
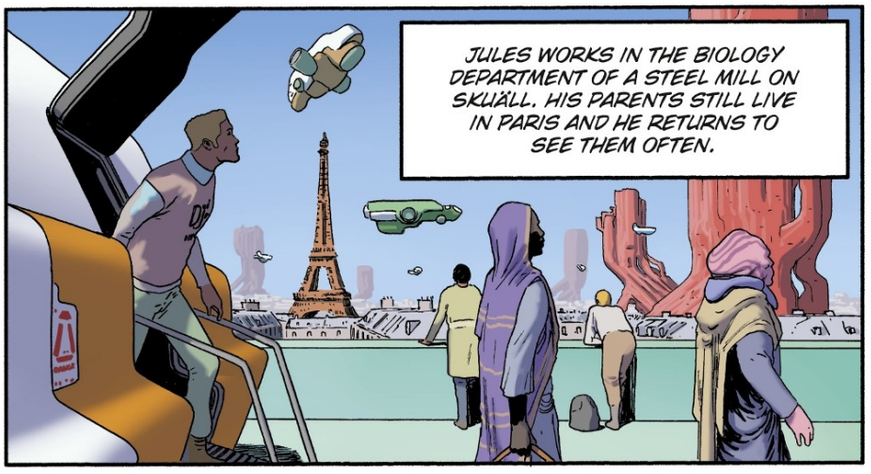

MY OLD FRIEND CONRÄD DIDN'T STAY ON EARTH EITHER. HE VISITS ME FROM TIME TO TIME AND WE TALK ABOUT THE HUNT ON TORGHON THAT WE'RE PLANNING... SOMEDAY...

PABLÖ HAD THE HONOR OF BEING THE FIRST ALIEN TO LEAD THE PRESTIGIOUS OXFORD UNIVERSITY. HE STILL TEACHES THERE TODAY, IN THE FIELD OF COMPARATIVE TECHNOLOGY.

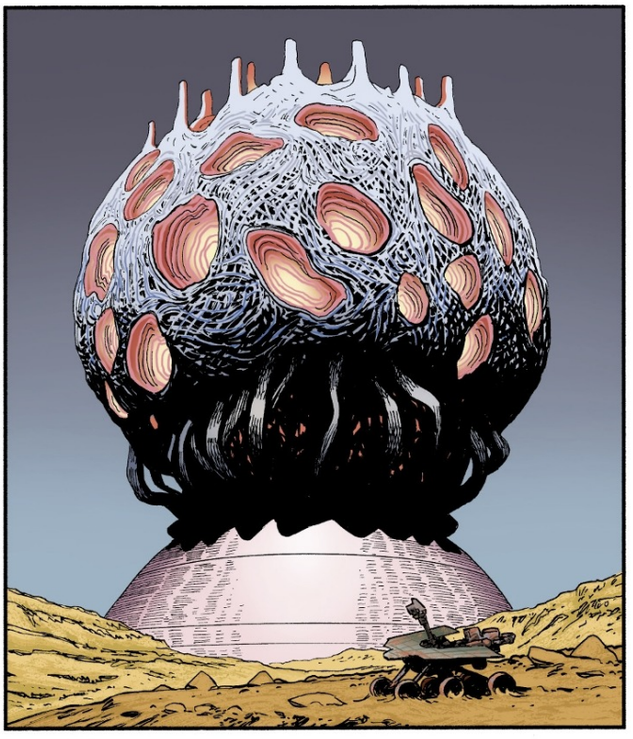
THE OURÖBÖRÖS NEVER CAME BACK. THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE CARYOPS' COMPLICITY IN THE INVASION PLAN OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM DIDN'T PROVE ANYTHING...

LIZ HEAVILY INVOLVED HERSELF IN HER DAUGHTER KATE'S DEFENSE. IN ADDITION TO A RESTRICTIVE REHABILITATION PROGRAM, KATE WAS BANNED FROM USING THE INTERZONE UNTIL HER FIFTIETH YEAR.

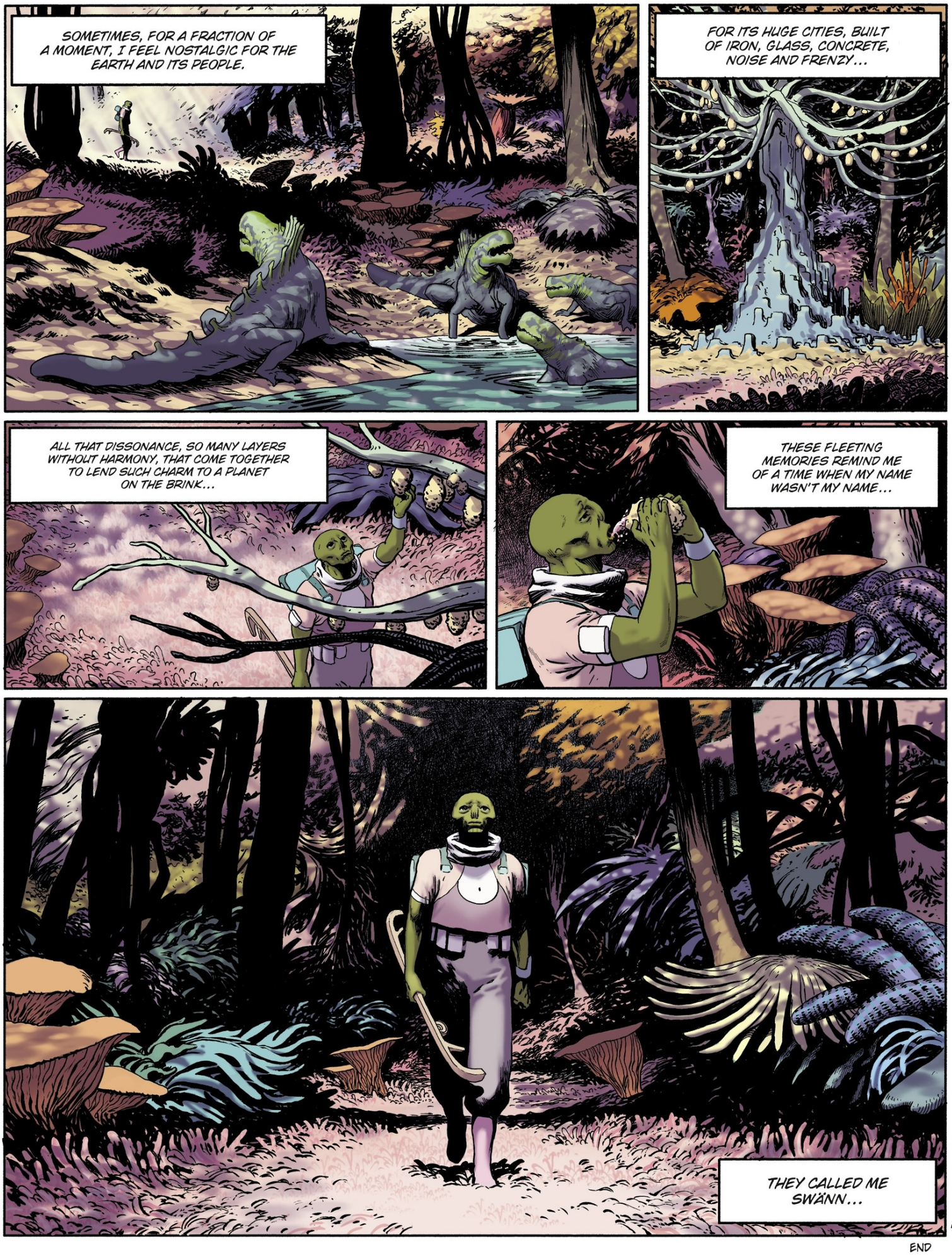
THE COMPLEX HAS BANNED PRISONS AND JAILS FOR A THOUSAND YEARS, BUT KÖBALT JUSTICE HAS NEVER WAVERED...


JULES WORKS IN THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF A STEEL MILL ON SKUÄLL. HIS PARENTS STILL LIVE IN PARIS AND HE RETURNS TO SEE THEM OFTEN.

HELENE AND LUC BOUGHT THEIR NEIGHBOR JEAN-JACQUES' BEAUTIFUL HOUSE. THE DISSIDENT VOICE OF RADIO PARIS DIED A FEW YEARS AFTER THE GREAT BATTLE...



THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CITIES RAVAGED BY OURÖBÖRÖS SERVED AS THE OCCASION TO REVEAL TO HUMANITY THAT MARS WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION TO HOUSE A HUGE INTERZONE JUMP GENERATOR, WHICH WILL ONE DAY ALLOW EARTHLINGS TO TRAVEL TO ALL THE SYSTEMS IN THE COMPLEX, WITHOUT ANY SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION.


SOMETIMES, FOR A FRACTION OF A MOMENT, I FEEL NOSTALGIC FOR THE EARTH AND ITS PEOPLE.
FOR ITS HUGE CITIES, BUILT OF IRON, GLASS, CONCRETE, NOISE AND FRENZY...
ALL THAT DISSONANCE, SO MANY LAYERS WITHOUT HARMONY, THAT COME TOGETHER TO LEND SUCH CHARM TO A PLANET ON THE BRINK...
THESE FLEETING MEMORIES REMIND ME OF A TIME WHEN MY NAME WASN'T MY NAME...
THEY CALLED ME SWÄNN...

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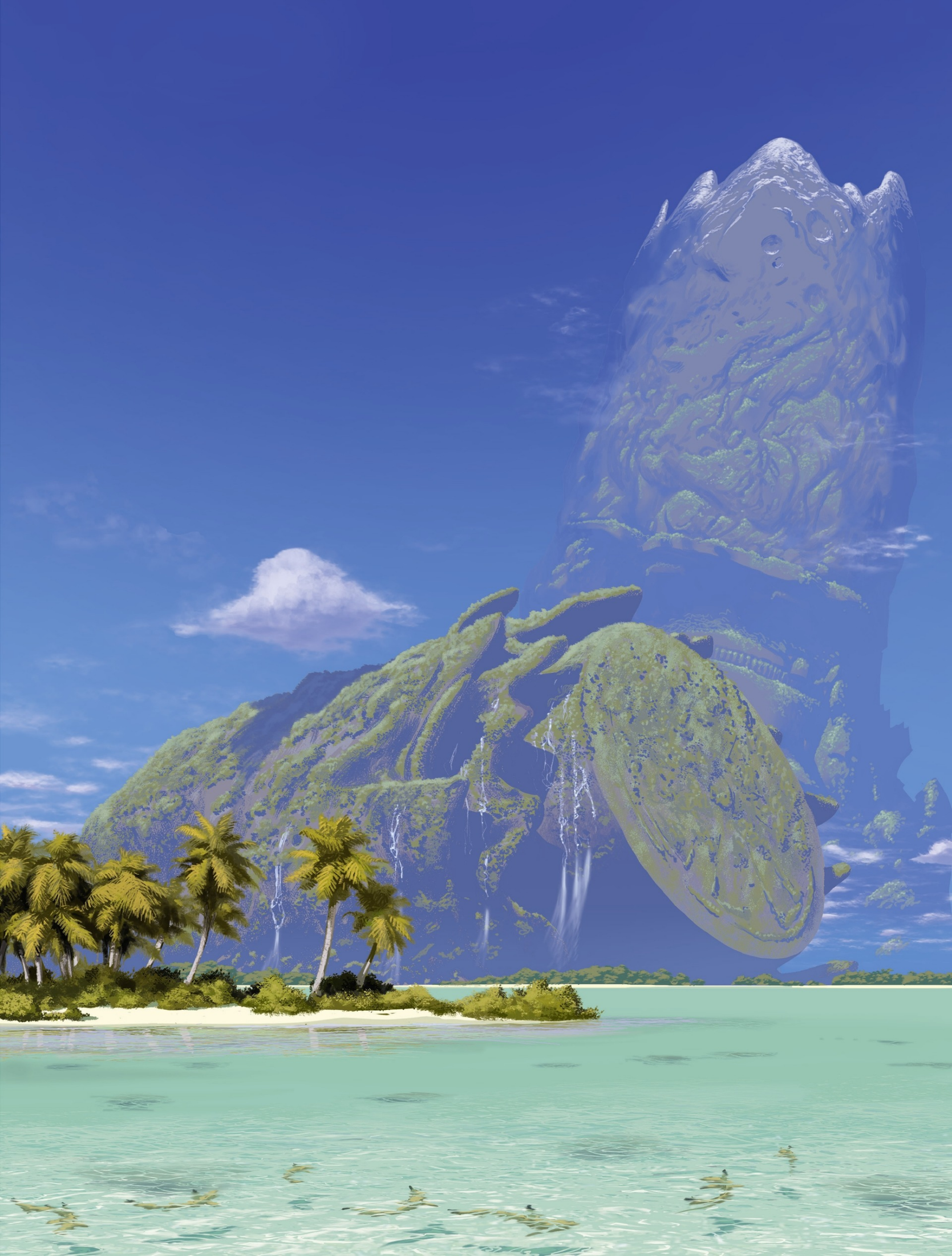
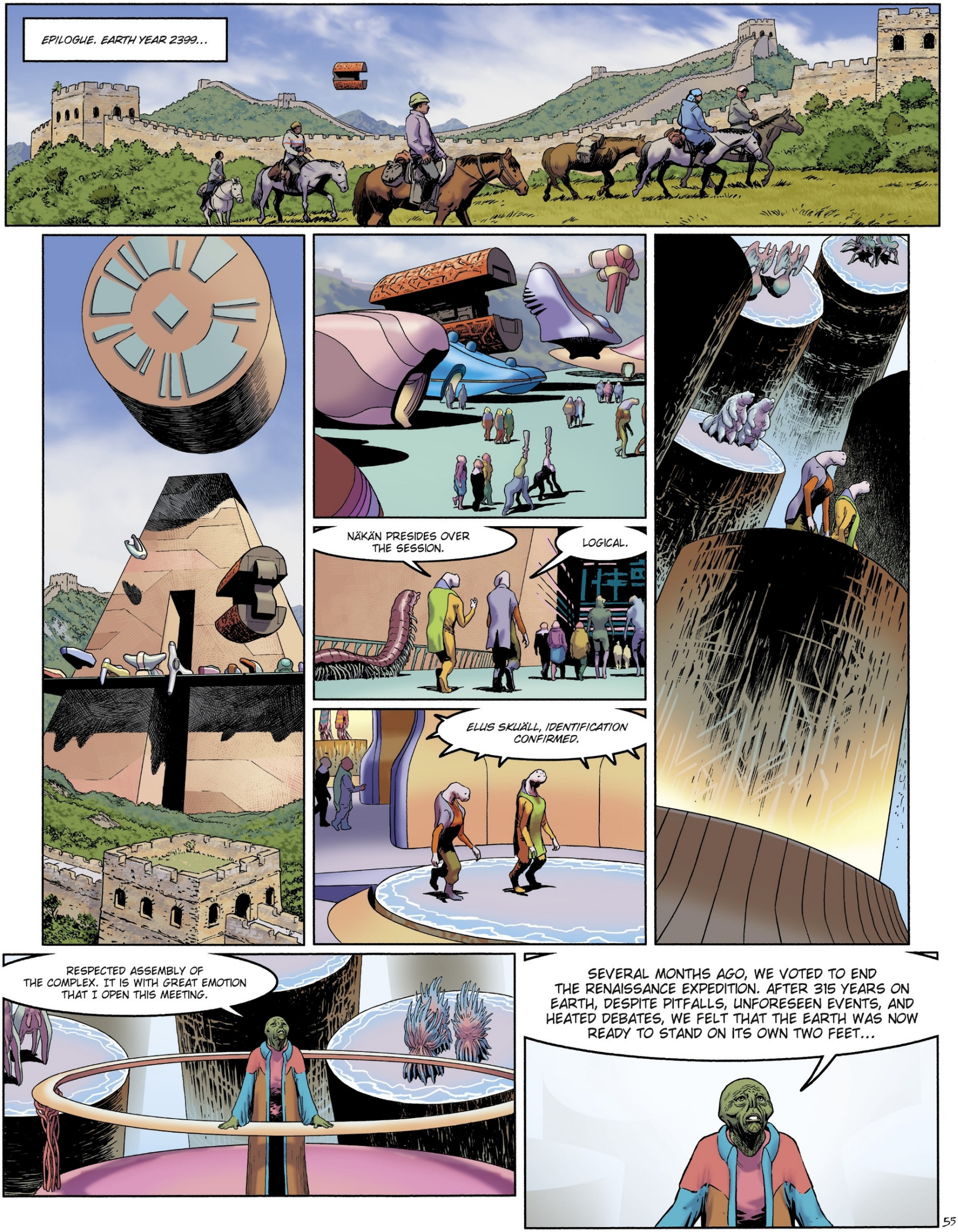
END




EPILOGUE. EARTH YEAR 2399...
NÄKÄN PRESIDES OVER THE SESSION.
LOGICAL.
ELUS SKUÄLL, IDENTIFICATION CONFIRMED.
RESPECTED ASSEMBLY OF THE COMPLEX. IT IS WITH GREAT EMOTION THAT I OPEN THIS MEETING.
SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, WE VOTED TO END THE RENAISSANCE EXPEDITION. AFTER 315 YEARS ON EARTH, DESPITE PITFALLS, UNFORESEEN EVENTS, AND HEATED DEBATES, WE FELT THAT THE EARTH WAS NOW READY TO STAND ON ITS OWN TWO FEET...

TODAY, THE EARTH WISHES TO BE THE TWENTY FOURTH MEMBER OF THE COMPLEX.
TO DEFEND THEIR CANDIDACY, I CEDE THE FLOOR TO THE TWO HUMAN DELEGATES WHO HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM OF EARTH.
THANK YOU, PRESIDENT SÄRÄ. HONORED REPRESENTATIVES, EVERYTHING ABOUT OUR PLANET HAS ALREADY BEEN SAID. WELL, ALMOST.
THREE CENTURIES AGO, MY ANCESTOR HELENE RUBBED SHOULDERS WITH PRESIDENT SÄRÄ'S MOTHER... TOGETHER THEY BUILT SOMETHING THAT SURPASSED THE ISSUES, CHALLENGES, AND INTERESTS OF THE RENAISSANCE MISSION.
THEY SIMPLY BECAME FRIENDS.
IN THE END, OUR CANDIDACY RESTS ON THE UNIVERSAL FRIENDSHIPS THAT OUR PEOPLE HAVE FORGED WITH THE DIFFERENT SPECIES OF YOUR ORGANIZATION.
THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING US AT YOUR SIDE.
ALRIGHT. LET'S HAVE A FEW MINUTES OF QUIET REFLECTION BEFORE WE MOVE TO VOTE.

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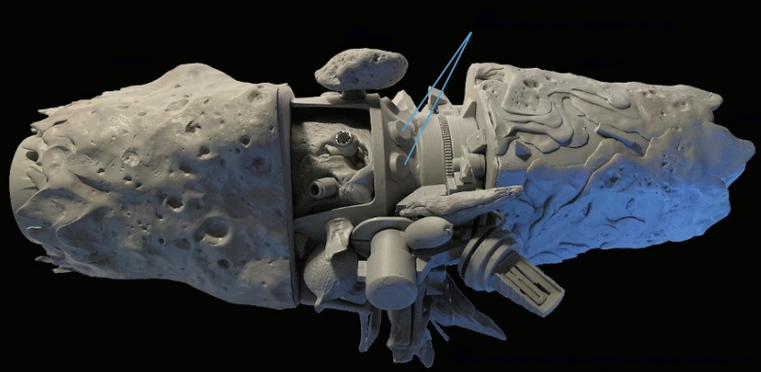
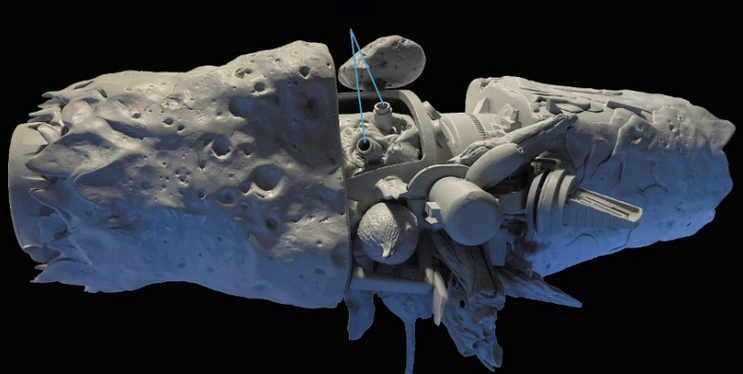
WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY DUVAL, EMEM, BLANCHARD, 2018-2023

BEFORE RENAISSANCE, THERE WAS

APOGEE





COMING SOON, A NEW SERIES BY F. DUVAL, EMEM, & F. BLANCHARD

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EMEM

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THE AUTHORS

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